THE TIMES

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Straw acts over Lawrence inquiry

Ethnic quota system for police forces

BY RICHARD FORD AND STEWART TENDLER

JACK STRAW is ordering chief constables to treble black and Asian recruitment as part of an effort to salvage the reputation of the police before the Stephen Lawrence inquiry report is published.

A national target of 7 per cent of officers from ethnic minorities will be imposed with forces required to introduce quotas, even in areas that are overwhelmingly white.

The Home Secretary also intends to punish officers convicted of serious disciplinary offences by cutting their pensions by up to 75 per cent. That penalty would apply to officers found guilty of neglect of duty — the charge levelled against the second-in-command of the Lawrence murder inquiry.

Mr Straw is due to receive Sir William Macpherson of Cluny's report on the Lawrence inquiry next week and he wants to bolster public confidence in the service before it is published.

However, he does not want Sir Paul Condon to step down as head of Scotland Yard. Mr Straw is said to fear that police morale would be shattered if Sir Paul was forced to quit, and he regards Sir Paul as the best man to start reforming the Metropolitan Police.

Yesterday Mr Straw outlined his strategy for countering the racist "canteen culture" in the police, putting pressure on chief constables to take to firmer action to recruit more blacks and Asians.

A new report from the Inspectorate of Constabulary shows the few forces, apart from the Metropolitan Police, are doing enough to recruit more officers from ethnic minorities or improve community relations — in spite of being warned to do so a year ago.

Now Mr Straw is to set a national target to triple the number of black and Asian officers. At present only 2,500 of the 127,000 police officers in England and Wales are black or Asian, with 865 of them in London.

Each force will also set its own target and no chief constable will be able to plead that he cannot increase the number because of the absence of ethnic minorities in his area.

Mr Straw signalled to the Commons Home Affairs Committee that he had lost patience with the slow progress being made by individual forces. He disclosed that a fifth of the forces in England and Wales had fewer than ten officers from ethnic minority backgrounds and that some thought they were white-only areas.

Cheshire has seven black or Asian officers, Cumbria two, Dyfed Powis one, Lincolnshire seven, Dorset six, Devon & Cornwall five, North Wales two and North Yorkshire seven.

"I want to see all forces set targets to recruit black and asian police including those forces which happened to think they are wholly white areas," Mr Straw said.

And although the targets would vary between forces, he would not accept, for example, North Wales setting a target of doubling its existing strength from two to four. While the force's area had only a small ethnic minority population, it was close to Merseyside and black and Asian people visited North Wales.

Mr Straw also disclosed that not one black or Asian officer who had applied to join the police service's accelerated promotion scheme had been successful in the past five years. Eighty-five officers had applied for 13 places on the scheme last year, but none had been chosen.

At the same time Mr Straw is examining legislation which would cost an officer up to 75 per cent of his pension after conviction of "top-level" discipline breaches, such as very serious neglect of duty. At the moment the penalty is limited to officers convicted of very serious criminal offences and rarely used. Police can receive up to two-thirds of their salary on retirement and the move could cost a bad officer hundreds of thousands of pounds.

Mr Straw told MPs yesterday that an officer could have his pension cut if found guilty of neglect of duty — the type of allegation made against officers in the Lawrence inquiry. Detective Inspector Ben Bullock, once the second in command of the Lawrence murder investigation, faces seven counts of neglect of duty.



Among the Oscar rivals to the Bard: Brenda Blethyn, nominated for *Little Voice* , and Emily Watson, nominated for *Hilary and Jackie*

Hollywood in love with Shakespeare

BY DALYA ALBERGE
ARTS CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH costume drama romped into the lead in the Oscar nominations yesterday. The romantic comedy *Shakespeare in Love* is in the running for 13 of the awards. One of its main rivals is the British-made historical drama *Elizabeth*, which has seven nominations.

Shakespeare in Love, made in Britain with American money, tells the story of a doomed romance set against the writing of *Romeo and Juliet*. Tom Stoppard and Marc Norman have been dominated for their screenplay, John Madden for his direction and Gwyneth Paltrow as best actress. Judi Dench, who plays Elizabeth I, is up for best supporting actress.

Hearing the news, Dame Judi - who was nominated last year for her performance as Queen Victoria in *Mrs Brown* - said: "There aren't any more queens to play, just Boadicea with one breast."

In comparison, the Steven Spielberg war movie *Saving Private Ryan* — American made but filmed largely in Hertfordshire and Ireland — received 11 nominations, including best picture, director, and actor for Tom Hanks. *Elizabeth*'s seven include best actress and best picture.

What surprised the film industry was that neither Michael Caine nor Jane Horrocks were singled out for *Little Voice*, the film about a seedy, small-time agent who tries to exploit the singing talents of a young girl. However, Brenda Blethyn, who plays the singer's raucous mother, was nominated for best supporting actress. Musicians who had voiced despair over the British-funded *Hilary and Jackie*, which portrays Jacqueline du Pré as sex-crazed, may be concerned that Emily Watson, 32, is in the running for best actress for her role.

The actress said the film was "a very conscientious and complex piece — it is not a piece of tabloid journalism". She said her nomination was "amazing and thrilling — you never really think like that especially with a film like this. It's a little film with a small budget."

Blair's attack on arms report shocks MPs

BY PHILIP WEBSTER AND VALERIE ELLIOTT

DAMNING criticism by a Commons committee of the Foreign Office and its most senior official over their behaviour in the arms-to-Africa affair was contemptuously swept aside by Tony Blair and Robin Cook yesterday.

The Prime Minister astonished MPs and infuriated the Foreign Affairs Committee by rejecting its attack on Sir John Kerr, Permanent Secretary at the Foreign Office, who had been accused of failing in his duty to ministers — probably the most serious charge that can be levelled at an official.

Both Mr Blair and the Foreign Secretary, whose offensive against the report had been planned days in advance, declared that there was nothing new in it that had not been uncovered in the official government inquiry by Sir Thomas Legg QC.

Mr Blair said that the criticism of officials made by the committee, which is chaired by the senior Labour backbencher, Donald Anderson, was "disproportionate and unfair". Responding to a report that castigated civil servants for a catalogue of "serious shortcomings" and "appalling failures", Mr Blair called on MPs "not to judge too much with the benefit of hindsight".

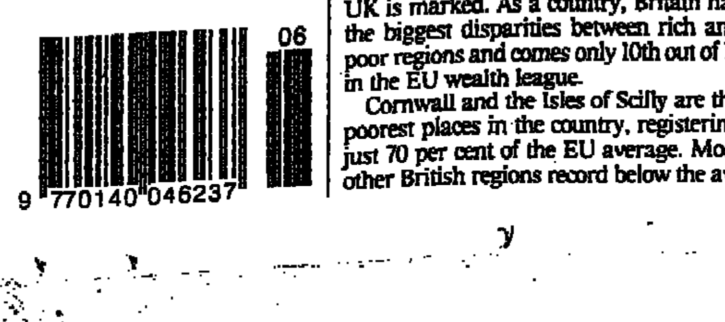
In an unusual move Mr Cook issued a minute to Sir John in which he said the report found no evidence of connivance or conspiracy by anyone in the Foreign Office to breach an arms embargo.

Conservatives said the reaction showed that the Government could not take criticism from any quarter and Michael Howard called on Mr Blair to dismiss Mr Cook.

Mr Anderson, upset at the Government's reaction, said it was absolutely absurd to say they had discovered nothing new. "A mechanism that prides itself on being a Rolls-Royce appeared more like an old banger."

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Leading article, page 17

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Court told of killing Jews

Britain's first war crimes trial was told that a former railway ticket collector from Bermondsey had helped to kill Jews in Belarus "with enthusiasm" during the Second World War.

Anthony Sawoniuk, above, is said to have marched the victims, many of them women, to an execution site known as the Sand Hills and ordered them to strip in front of pre-dug graves before shooting them. Mr Sawoniuk, 77, faces four murder charges.... Page 3

CIA's Diana file to go to Fayed

BY DOMINIC KENNEDY

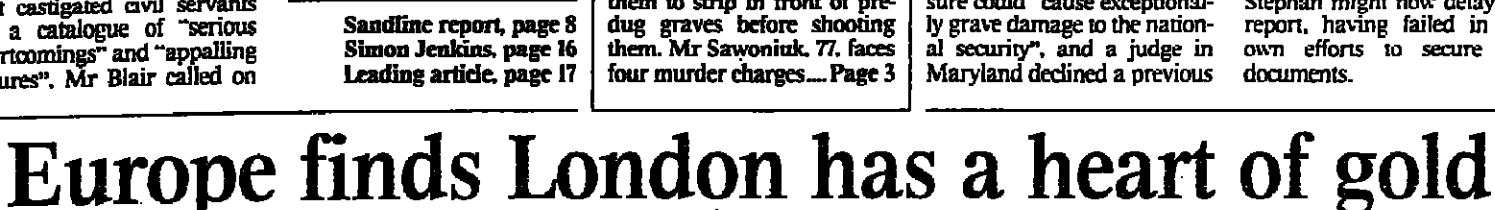
A JUDGE has ordered American intelligence agencies to hand their 1,000-page dossier about Diana, Princess of Wales, to Mohammed Al Fayed.

Mr Al Fayed won subpoenas against the US Defense Intelligence Agency and the Central Intelligence Agency because, as father of Diana's lover Dodi, he is an "interested party". The agencies now have 30 days to challenge the order, issued by the US District Court in the District of Colombia.

The National Security Agency has conceded that it had "39 NSA-originated and NSA-controlled documents" about the Princess. They were classified top secret because their disclosure could "cause exceptionally grave damage to the national security", and a judge in Maryland declined a previous request for their release saying that such a move would be extremely ill-advised.

The new order was hailed as a breakthrough by John Macnamara, head of security for Mr Al Fayed's House of Fraser group. He said: "It is a tremendous step forward. We know that they were monitoring Diana right up until the night of her death. During that time she was talking constantly to the Brazilian ambassador's wife. She may even have said to her on Saturday that they were announcing their engagement on Monday." Mr Al Fayed has maintained that the couplewere about to become engaged.

Mr Macnamara said that the French investigator Hervé Stephan might now delay his report, having failed in his own efforts to secure the documents.



Europe finds London has a heart of gold

BY CHARLES BREMNER AND ROLAND WATSON

CENTRAL London was crowned yesterday as the richest area in the European Union. The 2.7 million residents in the heart of the capital enjoy wealth more than twice the rate of the EU average, a new survey reported.

However, the contrast between the capital and the vast majority of the rest of the UK is marked. As a country, Britain has the biggest disparities between rich and poor regions and comes only 10th out of 15 in the EU wealth league.

Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly are the poorest places in the country, registering just 70 per cent of the EU average. Most other British regions record below the average — of 100 per cent — according to the survey produced by Eurostat, the EU's Luxembourg-based statistical office.

London appears to owe its top regional spot to a redrawing of the boundaries which for the first time separate inner and outer London and as a result push Hamburg into second place.

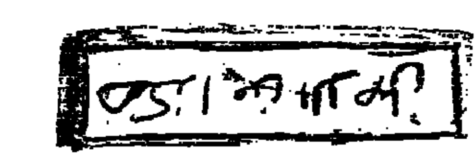
Inner London measures 222 per cent but taken as a whole London's rating sinks to 138 per cent, well outside the top ten areas, five of which are German.

In the rest of Britain, the figures go some way to reinforcing the image of a North-South divide, though North-Eastern Scotland registers second in the national rating with a reading of 127 per cent. Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire are all rated highly, along with Cheshire, Wiltshire and North Somerset. The only other areas to figure above the EU average are Cumbria, East Wales, the South-East, Leicestershire, Rutland, Northants, Eastern Scotland, Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire. From the bottom, West Wales and the Valleys with 71 per cent show only fractionally above Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly. That equates to Portugal's national wealth showing of 70 per cent, and Greece's 66 per cent.

Luxembourg is the richest country, followed by Denmark, Belgium, Austria and Germany.

London's new "super rich" status could work against Britain as ministers try to argue for the retention of the £2 billion-a-year rebate from Brussels.

"Would you like some change for a cup of tea?"



Scary Glenda declines to revisit a honeymoon nightmare



MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

The la... ne I saw Glenda ... on naked was in ... way carriage. I was only ... undergraduate. ... llection is dist... and the nightmares were ... urbing ... esterday when ... stirred Ladyman (Lab. Step... uth) invited her to ... thay him in a railway ... acc'n Kent.

... ca stances had altered. ... s earlier railway frol... been with the young ... ivsky, in Russia. They ... n their honeymoon in ... ussell's film *The Music* ... *Neither the rail-romp,* nor the honeymoon in general, were (as I recall) a great success, *probably because the* composer was gay — though Auberon Waugh saw cause *and effect differently:* "Anyone might become a homosexualist who has once seen Glenda Jackson naked."

This was ungallant, and unfair. In her lean, stern way *and with her beautifully* severe voice, the junior Transport Minister has a strong if *scary appeal. But Ladyman* went a speculation too far when he suggested that Jack*son would need "masochistic* tendencies" to travel with him in "an antediluvian carriage, *knee-deep in filth*", between Ramsgate, Dover and Ashford.

There was a growl from Jackson. "Open-minded though I am, masochism has *never had any appeal for me,"* she said, sadistically.

There's always something *weird about questions to John* Prescott and his ghoulish team. Even the backbenchers *seem odd. Yesterday, Ronnie* Campbell's outfit was truly bizarre.

To appreciate how bizarre, note that 55-year-old Mr Campbell (Lab, Blyth Valley) *is as "old" Labour as four com*posite resolutions and a tub of mushy peas. An unemployed *miner when elected, his ac*cent is Geordie, his complexion beaten brick, and his opin*ions ... well, antediluvian.*

But he does enjoy a laugh. Yesterday Mr Campbell wore *a blue jacket, dark trousers,* blue tie, yellow shirt, blue waistcoat and blue suede shoes. He, *John Prescott,* a nice lady from Burton (Labour's Janet Dean) and other *embarrassments in the palace* of Tony Blair the Sun King kicked around a discussion of *"beacons of excellence" in lo*cal government, for a while — but half-heartedly. Then every*one reverted to what everyone* really loves at Questions on Environment, Transport and *the Regions: moaning about* the railways.

MPs formed themselves *into a passable imitation of a* herd of grumpy commuters on a windy railway station *somewhere in the marshes of* Kent. "Every day," groused John Reid, the Transport Minister, "brings a new horror story...

"Only this morning a col*league of mine stood on a plat*form at Elmstead Wood while, in 20 minutes, Connex *cancelled three trains."* Jonathan Shaw (Lab, Chatham & Aylesford) had brought him *appalling news* of Connex South Eastern's trains service to Kent.

Roger Gale (C, Thanet N) was not leaving the griping to Labour: the Margate service *was "frightful". Not to be out*done, Derek Wyatt (Lab, Sittingbourne & Sheppey) want*ed to discuss "the dreaded Vic*toria to Sittingbourne service". Recently he had left Sit*tingbourne on the 9.15* — and not arrived at Victoria until 1.15, and the journey should *take an hour.* MPs gasped.

There are moments in the history of these islands when the issue is just too grave to be trivialised by party-political squabbling. At such an hour, when fear and outrage stalk the land, men and women of goodwill lay aside their political allegiances to reason together.

We then see the House at its best. Thus it must be during wars and national emergencies. Thus it was during the Abdication Crisis.

And thus it is in all questions relating to the Kent railways.

Alarm over threat to Royal Ordnance

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, MICHAEL EVANS AND PHILIP WEBSTER

THE Armed Forces may have to rely on foreign suppliers for all its ammunition stocks after British Aerospace gave warning yesterday that its Royal Ordnance factories could close in six months.

The prospect of the main Brit*ish supplier of artillery shells,* bullets and high explosives going out of business caused *much alarm last night.* Defence sources said that the Ministry of Defence no longer kept *large stocks of ammunition* and needed to rely on companies such as Royal Ordnance when Britain went to war.

With bitter memories of Belgium, a Nato partner, refusing to supply Britain with shells when stocks ran low during the 1991 Gulf War, the Armed Forces consider it crucial for their chief ammunition supplier to be British.

John Maples, the Shadow Defence Secretary, called on the Government to ensure that Britain maintained a "cast-iron reliable source of ammunition".

"There have been instances in the past of both France and Belgium refusing to supply weapons to us and they are friendly neighbouring countries," he said.

Mr Maples added that contracts had recently been awarded to firms in countries such as South Africa. "If we have to rely on supplies from countries outside out military alliances we are getting into a dangerous situation. The Government has a duty to step in and safeguard our short-term supplies."

The Commons Select Committee on Defence is expected *to question ministers shortly* about the future of Royal Ordnance. Bruce George, the com*mittee's Labour chairman,* said that the company had been acquired by British Aero*space at a low price and had* already shed workers and closed sites.

"Those that are left are making important military products and it would be hugely unfortunate if their ability to manufacture them was lost and we had to import from abroad. These are assets we can ill afford to lose," he said.

The warning from British Aerospace that it can no longer guarantee the survival of the loss-making Royal Ordnance factories, which have *manufactured ammunition* since 1560, was made despite a £100 million contract awarded *by the MoD before Christmas* to supply ammunition for the next five years.

Last night a spokesman for the MoD said that efforts were being made to forge a partner*ing arrangement with Royal* Ordnance to keep it in business, but that no deal was *imminent.* British Aerospace believes that a deal could involve a cash injection or guaranteed sales, but the MoD said that Royal Ordnance could also set up a joint venture with a foreign company.

British Aerospace has been discussing a joint venture between Royal Ordnance and Rheinmetall, a German defence firm since 1997, but the German company has yet to *make a specific proposal.*

BAe said that it would start closing Royal Ordnance *plants by the summer unless it* could find a strategic partner for the business. Although *15,000 Royal Ordnance jobs* have been lost since BAe bought the company in 1987, it *still employs 4,100 people on* 12 sites and providing jobs for thousands more in support industries.

The company has seen losses mount after a major downturn in demand for its bullets and high explosives since the end of the Cold War. Over the past ten years the MoD has cut its ammunition orders from £350 million a year to £150 million. Overseas sales have also been affected.

The Royal Ordnance plant at Bishopton, near Glasgow, which employs 300 people has already been earmarked for closure.

Robin Southwell, the managing director of BAe's defence systems group, said that BAe was "bearing a considerable burden" and running out of third-party options.

The news will dismay the Government, which is already struggling to protect about 50,000 jobs associated with Rover's Longbridge car plant in the West Midlands, which may be closed by BMW, its German parent.

Business, page 21

FROM DRAKE TO THATCHER

The Royal Ordnance began life in 1560, when a group of gunpowder manufacturers started work at Waltham Abbey, Essex. The long war with Spain meant that Sir Francis Drake was buying all the gunpowder it could produce. He set up a second armoury in Woolwich to keep captured guns.

Over the centuries, the two camps provided arms for the Battle of Waterloo and the Boer War. In the First World War there were 200 other munitions factories and by 1948 there were 48, with 40,000 staff.

The Labour government decided to diversify them into civil engineering — making trains, engines and chemical fertilisers.

In 1985 the Thatcher Government decided to sell off the remaining factories. In April 1987 British Aerospace outbid rivals Trafalgar House, GKN and Ferranti.

JEFF OVERS/BBC



Firmly in the middle of the road: Tony Blair with Jimmy Young yesterday

Blair keeps his cool with the JY Prog

BY PETER BARNARD

DANCE music was playing when Tony Blair walked into a BBC radio studio in London yesterday. The Prime Minister asked Jimmy Young, off-air: Is this M People? It was. What with M People, Frank Sinatra 14 minutes into the interview and a guitar track by a couple of ex-Shadows 15 minutes later, Radio 2's centrist music policy was firmly in place. Enough to make any new Labour Prime Minister feel at home.

Jimmy Young's show, with about 3.4 million listeners, is a favoured staging post for politi*cians reaching out to the peo*ple. Mr Blair's previous venture was the appearance on ITV's *This Morning,* during which the Prime Minister nudged Glenn Hoddle a step nearer to his next life.

Nothing so dramatic occurred yesterday. The questions mainly focused on health and education. Young, who is either 74 or 78 depending on which branch of the BBC personnel office you consult, is by no means a soft-touch interviewer and he has a statistic *for every occasion.*

Mr Blair, like most politicians, is a past master at ignor*ing, repolishing or inverting* statistics, so that a typical question, about the 15,000 alleged *failures in the teaching profes*sion (why haven't you cleared out the no-hopers?), elicited a *reply about the others: Let's cel*ebrate the fact that the vast bulk of them are up to the job.

There was an awkward mo*ment when Young, who has in*terviewed every Prime Minister since Edward Heath in *1973, raised the fact that Mr* Blair retained huge personal popularity even amid ministe*rial resignations and other ca*lamities. Young was quite determined to compare Mr *Blair's popularity with that of* President Clinton.

Mr Blair, for some reason, was unenthusiastic: there are *no smoking cigars in the* Downing Street ashtray. The Prime Minister eventually conceded that the reason why [Mr Clinton] has risen above some of the difficulties is because people perceive him to be running a competent economy and that he is trying to tackle the big issues there.

Mr Blair avoided another mine when he refused to say whether he might step down as Prime Minister after winning the next election. "I take nothing for granted and I haven't even thought about future intentions ... the public has a very clear way of dealing *with politicians* who get above themselves."

There were no really person*al questions, so there was noth*ing to match the famous occasion when Young got John Major to confess that he tucks his shirt into his underpants.

But Young did refer to Baroness Thatcher's recent remark that Mr Blair was becoming bossy. The Prime Minister started as if about to cite pots and kettles but thought better of it: "I don't think I'm bossy but it's important to give *a lead.*"

Mr Blair's second appearance on the JY Prog since he became Prime Minister ended with Young hoping that he would come back soon. Mr *Blair has* appeared on the show four times in all, twice as Leader of the Opposition, but *he is a long way off the all-com*ers' record, held by Lady Thatcher with 14 appearances.

Aid for Rover played down

Tony Blair yesterday played down the prospect of a government rescue package for Rover's beleaguered car plant at Longbridge. There was no question of the Government single-handedly providing the formula that would keep the site alive. "The days of picking winners are long gone," the Prime Minister *told the Jimmy Young* programme.

He held out the prospect, *however, of limited financial* aid if it could be matched by a firm commitment from Rover's parent company, BMW. He confirmed that he had raised the issue with Gerhard Schröder, the German Chancellor, in Amman on Monday. Rover and BMW have been told that Longbridge could qualify for a sizeable grant from the DTI's regional selective assistance fund.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Setback for cancer claim case

The first British legal action by *lung cancer victims* against tobacco companies suffered a severe setback yesterday when a *High Court* judge ruled that some of the plaintiffs had run out of time.

Mr Justice Wright, sitting in Liverpool, said the eight plaintiffs could not proceed with their actions against Gallaher and Imperial Tobacco because they had been brought outside the three-year legal time limit.

Now only 14 sufferers from an original cohort of 52 can contemplate going ahead with claims. A trial is scheduled for January next year, but the smaller the group, the greater the burden of legal costs should they lose.

Saatchi's gift

Charles Saatchi, the country's leading collector of contemporary art, has donated 100 works to the Arts Council's collection, which lends art to buildings with public access, international exhibitions, and national touring shows run by the Hayward Gallery. The 100 works are valued at £500,000.

Justice at last

A man was convicted of a murder committed almost six years ago because boot polish had preserved a tiny stain of the victim's blood on his shoe. Advances in DNA profiling *resulted in Peter Hastings, 30,* of Druids Heath, Birmingham, being given life for kill*ing his lover, Jean Bellis, 38.*

Fraud fiasco

A project to clamp down on disability benefit cheats uncov*ered only 79 cases of suspected* fraud, a Commons Select Committee said. None had resulted in a prosecution. The MPs said that the project, which is to be replaced next month, led to many disabled people wrongly losing benefit.

Doctor struck off

A prison doctor was struck off the medical register after prescribing lethal doses of methadone to two inmates in Brixton prison. Archibald Alexander, 63, of Croydon, South London, was found guilty of serious professional misconduct at a General Medical Council hearing in London.

Prison reform

Mother and baby units in pris*ons should be replaced with* small community-based secure hostels, prison reformers said yesterday. The Howard League told the Prison Service that children should not have to pay for their mothers' crime by being sent to prison with them or forcibly separated.

Exorcist returns

The horror film *The Exorcist* is to be available uncut on video. A quarter of a century after it was made, it has been passed by the British Board of Film Censors under its new director, Robin Duval. Although long considered too disturbing for home viewing, the video has been granted an 18 rating.

Explicit chat shows may be sanitised

TEARFUL confessions and sexual revelations on popular chat shows such as *Vanessa* and *The Jerry Springer Show* could be sanitised after the broadcasting watchdog com*missioned* an *academic study* to draw up a code of conduct (Adam Sherwin writes).

The Broadcasting Standards Commission has asked Stirling University's film and *media department to begin a* 12-month research project to examine the effect on viewers *and participants and to devise* guidelines. A report by the watchdog last month disclosed *that nearly half of viewers said* there was too much discussion about sex on daytime shows. One Jerry Springer show was entitled *My sister slept with my three husbands.*

Stirling University will interview programme producers and *conduct focus groups* with viewers. Brian McNair of the university, which won a £50,000 *contract to carry out* the research, said: "People are worried about the divisions be*tween fact and fiction, between* private and public."

Lady Howe of Aberavon, *chairwoman of the commis*sion, said: "There is not a universal climate of tolerance towards explicit *material,* particularly if it is gratuitous."

Suspended deputy set for Glasgow job

BY GILLIAN HARRIS
SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

GLASGOW'S deputy Lord Provost emerged as the favourite candidate to take over the *top job yesterday after the an*nouncement that the city's civic leader is to stand down.

Bailie Alex Mosson, who, along with the Lord Provost, Pat Lally, was suspended from the Labour *Party two years* ago after allegations that councillors were accepting trips in *return for political support, is* understood to have won backing from within the council's ruling Labour group.

The charges against Mr Lally and Mr Mosson were later dropped by the Labour Party after the Court of Session granted them a judicial review. The men were then allowed to rejoin the party.

Yesterday Mr Lally, who has held the Lord Provost's post for three years and led Glasgow City Council for eight years, said he was leaving in May to write his memoirs. "I decided it was better to go when I was at the top. Glasgow is now UK City of Architecture. That's a high point for the city and it seemed a good time to go."

Mr Lally declined to name his preferred successor.

Accused in war crimes trial 'embraced the Final Solution with enthusiasm'

Tim Jones on court allegation that former BR ticket collector was one of first to volunteer for Nazi police

BRITAIN'S first war crimes trial was told yesterday that the 77-year-old accused man had helped to kill Jews "with enthusiasm" after embracing the Nazi policy of the Final Solution.

Anthony Sawoniuk faces four charges of murder under the War Crimes Act, allegedly committed in his native Belarus, but is accused of murdering many more.

John Nutting, QC, for the prosecution, told an Old Bailey jury in measured, dispassionate tones of the horror that befell the predominantly Jewish village of Domachevo after it had been overrun by the Nazi war machine in 1941.

Mr Sawoniuk, a former British Rail ticket collector from Bermondsey, South London, displayed no emotion as Mr Nutting outlined the case against him in a crowded Court No 12. Dressed in a brown suit and checked cardigan, he sat not in the dock but in the well of the court.

Mr Nutting said that Mr Sawoniuk was among the first to volunteer for the local police force set up by the Nazis who, on the Yom Kippur holy day in September 1942, massacred 2,900 Jews. Some other Jews had managed to flee to a forest or to hide in the village ghetto, where they were confined behind barbed wire.

Although there is no evidence that Mr Sawoniuk, who was made commander of the police force, took part in the original massacre, he was prominent in the search-and-kill operation aimed at those who had escaped.

Referring to the four murder charges, Mr Nutting said: "On each count, say the Crown, this defendant executed Jewish men and women whose only 'offence' was to be Jewish and who had escaped the main massacre of several thousand Jews when the ghetto in Domachevo was liquidated.

"The evidence indicates, in our submission, that the defendant not only was prepared to do the Nazi bidding, but carried out their genocidal policy with enthusiasm."

Mr Nutting said that survivors from the ghetto, where Jews were starving and freezing to death in one of the worst winters on record, were rounded up and marched down a track that became known as the "road of death". It led to an execution site known as the sand hills, where they were forced to strip before being shot.

Five days after the main massacre, Mr Nutting said, one witness, Alexander Baglay, and a friend were taken to the sand hills. They saw two Jewish men, aged about 40, and a Jewish woman, aged about 20, who were wearing the distinctive yellow patches on their clothing.

Mr Sawoniuk ordered the Jews to undress, Mr Nutting said. The girl was too embarrassed to remove her clothes until Mr Sawoniuk shouted at her. He ordered the Jews to face the ready-dug grave, took out his pistol and shot each one in the head from behind. As he fired, he pushed each victim forward into the grave. Mr Sawoniuk ordered the two young men to fill in the grave and return the shovels to the police station.

Another witness, Fedor Zan, Mr Nutting said, recalled a day when he heard women crying on the outskirts of the town. Keeping hidden, he went to investigate and saw about 15 Jewish women of mixed ages standing in front of an open grave.

"The defendant was standing behind the women armed with a sub-machinegun," Mr Nutting said. "He ordered the women to remove their clothes and then shot them with the weapon. As they died, they collapsed into the grave."

Mr Zan, he said, had known Mr Sawoniuk since their schooldays. "He had watched the defendant's transition from schoolboy to policeman, from being just another youngster to being one of those exercising a ruthless authority over Jew and gentile alike."

Mr Nutting said that Mr Zan had seen Mr Sawoniuk taking his aunt and her family to their executions because of their suspected association with anti-Nazi partisans in the forest.

Another witness, Ivan Stepaniuk, saw Mr Sawoniuk and another policeman escort a 50-year-old Jew named Shlemko towards the execution site among the sand hills. Mr Sawoniuk, he said, was hitting the Jew with a spade, causing him to fall. About two minutes later, Mr Stepaniuk said, he heard a single shot from among the trees.

On another occasion another witness, Ben-Zion Blustein, saw Mir Barlas, a Jew aged about 21, being taken from the police station by the Germans and handed over to Mr Sawoniuk and two other policemen. "The defendant and the other policemen took him in the direction of the sand hills. The witness never saw Barlas again.

"A few days after this incident, the witness asked the defendant what had happened to Barlas. The defendant said that Barlas had been in a good mood before he was shot."

Mr Nutting said that Mr Blustein, who had stayed with his family in a little hiding place for eight days, remembered an incident in which he saw a number of policemen taking an 80-year-old Jew into the street, setting fire to his beard and stabbing him.

Mr Nutting said that Mr Sawoniuk, who was born in the village, came from a poor family. His mother earned money by washing household items and clothes for Jews. Mr Sawoniuk used to earn pocket money by lighting fires, chopping wood or fetching water for them on the Sabbath. Everyone in Domachevo knew Mr Sawoniuk by the nickname of Andrusha, which he acquired at an early age.

"That name is so fixed in the consciousness of the survivors from that period that those who do not remember the defendant's Christian or surname remember him as Andrusha," Mr Nutting said. Mr Sawoniuk had married a Russian midwife called Anna during the Nazi occupation, but she was killed in crossfire during a partisans' attack on the police station.

Before the war most of the inhabitants of the thriving spa town of Domachevo were Jews. Only 10 per cent were Poles, Ukrainians and Belarussians. "The relations between the races in this area was generally peaceful and harmonious and there was little anti-semitism," said Mr Nutting. All that changed after the Nazi invasion.

Mr Nutting said: "It is apparent that the defendant carried out his police duties as a policeman conscientiously. He frequently searched Jews on their journeys in and out of the ghetto and if he found any forbidden item in the possession of a Jew, he invariably assaulted the culprit.

"One day a young Jewess, on return to the ghetto from work on a farm, tried to smuggle some potatoes into the ghetto. Mr Sawoniuk found them, beat her savagely, arrested her and put her in detention.

"It is clear that the Germans had greater faith in the defendant than in most of his colleagues in the police force. Not only did they promote him, but he was also permitted to carry a firearm at all times."

Mr Nutting said that, when interviewed by Scotland Yard officers investigating war crimes, Mr Sawoniuk, who came to Britain shortly after the Second World War, initially denied being in the police. He said that he had been deported to do forced labour in Germany.

However, he did not now dispute that he served as a policeman in Domachevo at the relevant time, nor that he was regarded by others as a senior officer, "nor that he left Domachevo in 1944 in company with the Nazis as they fled. However, by his plea of not guilty he denies participation in the murders on the four occasions described in the indictment."

Mr Sawoniuk had told Scotland Yard that anyone who accused him of killing Jews was an idiot, because the Jews had helped him by giving him food when he worked for them and that "he would not go against such people".

Those who had made the allegations "destroy other people's lives. If I was guilty I would tell my solicitor, so I volunteered to come to the police station and tell you what I can.

"No one can put a finger on me that I killed a Jew. The people who gave you that evidence are liars. The people over there will tell you anything for a couple of bob. They know nothing about what went on during the war.

"Those people still living in Domachevo probably did more damage than I did and I did no damage at all. They are still there and I have to suffer. The people who have given evidence to you are lying."

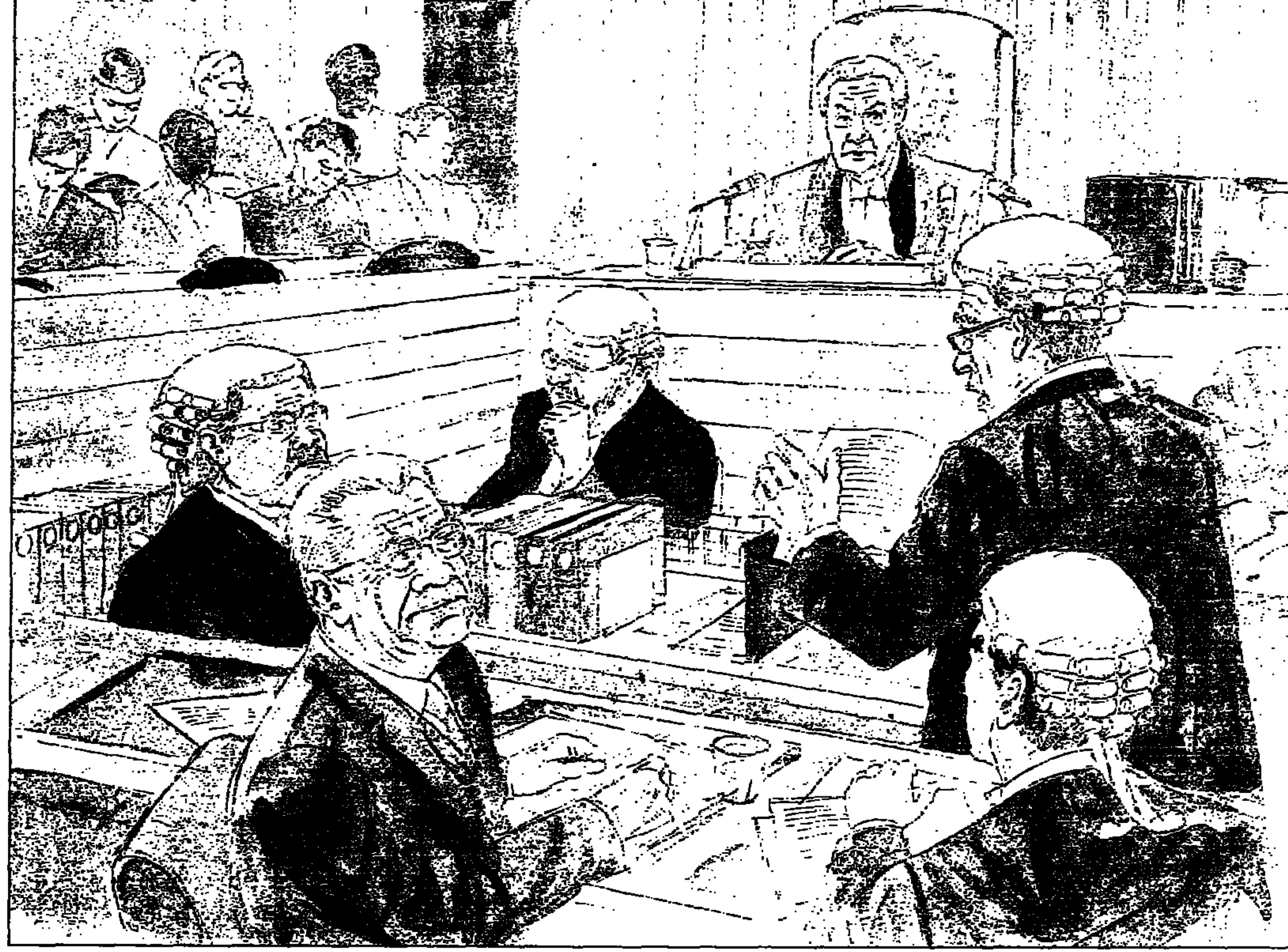
The trial continues.

THE CHARGES

Anthony Sawoniuk faces four charges, under the War Crimes Act of 1991, of committing murders "in circumstances constituting a violation of the laws and customs of war":

That, between September 19 and 27, 1942, in Domachevo, Belorussia, a town under German occupation, he murdered a Jewess; that, between September 19 and October 4, 1942, in Domachevo, he murdered a Jew known as Schlemko; that, between the same dates, in Domachevo, he murdered another Jewess; and that, between September 19, 1942, and December 31, 1942, also in Domachevo, he murdered a Jew known as Mir Barlas.

'He ordered Jews to face the ready-dug grave, took out his pistol and shot each one in the head from behind'



An artist's impression of the Old Bailey court where Anthony Sawoniuk faces War Crimes charges described by John Nutting, QC



Mosley: 37 years in *Coronation Street*

TV soap actor dies

By Claudia Joseph

THE cast of Coronation Street was in mourning last night after one of its best-loved members, Bryan Mosley, died at the age of 67.

Mr Mosley, who until New Year's Eve had played the portly shopkeeper Alf Roberts in the Granada soap opera, collapsed in the street in Shipley, West Yorkshire, yesterday afternoon. He and his wife, Norma, were withdrawing money for a holiday in Venice when he is believed to have had a heart attack.

Mr Mosley, who had suffered heart problems in the past, was taken to Bradford Royal Infirmary, but was pronounced dead on arrival. His ill health had been behind the producers' decision to retire him from the programme after appearing in it since 1961.

William Roache, who plays Ken Barlow, said: "We had hoped that, after his retirement, Bryan would have had many more years with his family. He was a very good man and a great actor. He will be sorely missed."

Trainspotting author went off the rails

By Susie Steiner

IRVINE WELSH, the best-selling author of *Trainspotting*, has re-enacted the gritty social realism of his novels with a five-hour spell in a police cell. He was arrested for being drunk and disorderly after travellers complained of abusive behaviour on a train from London to Exeter.

Welsh, 41, who earns an estimated £1 million a year in royalties from his novels, was met from the train at Exeter's St David's station by British Transport Police. Inspector Nick Garrold said: "Mr Welsh continued to be quarrelsome and was arrested for being drunk and disorderly. He was put into the cells to sober up and reflect. He was released about 5½ later after having been formally cautioned."

Welsh, who alternates between homes in North London and Edinburgh's New Town, suffered punishing reviews last week after the opening of his play, *You'll Have Had Your Hole*, at London's Astoria. The play, featuring anal rape, torture and drug-taking, peppered with expletives, was described by one critic as "the most obnoxious and contemptible" he had seen.

A spokeswoman for Welsh said yesterday that the author's arrest last Friday came as a result of continued partying in celebration of the play's opening night last Wednesday: "There was a major celebrity party after the first night, when Irvine started drinking for the first time since Christmas. He continued celebrating until Friday, and that led to his arrest." Welsh was unavailable for comment.

After his release from the police cell at around 11pm, Welsh headed straight for the Cavern Club, in central Exeter. The club's co-owner Patrick Cunningham said: "He was getting on well with everybody. A few people recognised him and were buying him drinks. We chatted about music and literature, all sorts of things."

Welsh is best known for *Trainspotting*, a brutal tale of heroin addiction, which was made into one of Britain's most successful films. Then came a critically aclaimed collection of short stories, *Acid House*, the novel *Ecstasy*, and his latest book, *Filth*. Last week Welsh said: "The soporific content of the majority of West End plays and the cricket Test ambience of the theatre seems designed to keep a younger, hipper crew away."

Welsh: rail passengers complained about him

Rowland widow is left £26m in will

By Joanna Bale

THE widow of Tiny Rowland, the business magnate, has been left more than £26 million in his will.

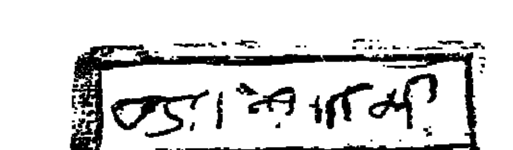
Mr Rowland, who died of cancer in July aged 80, had a fortune estimated at £650 million, most of which was held in a complex series of offshore trusts and funds. He was said to have been wryly amused by the fact that his wealth three years ago equated with that of the Queen.

The will, which was published yesterday, is understood to relate only to his assets in Britain, including family houses in Chester Square, Belgravia and Bourne End, Buckinghamshire. The sum also includes the value of his 150ft yacht, the *Hanse*, shares registered in Britain and several bank accounts he used for everyday expenses.

His widow, Josie, and their son and three daughters are also expected to benefit from the rest of his fortune, much of which is banked in Switzerland. The children, Toby, Anda, Louisa and Plum, are all in their twenties and unmarried.

Toby, 28, owns a flat off Eaton Square, Belgravia, and works for the Walt Disney company; Anda and Louisa share a flat off Chester Square, Belgravia, while Plum lives with her mother.

The couple married 30 years ago when she was 24. He had known her all her life as the daughter of an engineer who ran factories for him in Britain and who became his farm manager in Rhodesia.



Councils will be forced to house refugees

The Government is to take powers to disperse asylum-seekers around the country, reports **Richard Ford**

JACK STRAW is to order local authorities to make empty houses and hostels available for asylum-seekers.

The new power is part of the Government's plan to move asylum-seekers from London and the South East to be accommodated in clusters in the rest of England and Wales.

Mr Straw will create "reception zones" in local authority areas where there is vacant housing, if councils refuse to co-operate with offering accommodation to asylum-seekers.

The new power was unveiled yesterday as the Government published a 130-clause Bill to overhaul the United Kingdom's asylum and immigration system.

Under the proposals, which will come into force by April 2001, social security benefits to asylum-seekers will be scrapped and replaced with vouchers to be exchanged at shops for food and clothing.

Asylum-seekers will be dispersed around the country in bed and breakfast hotels, hostels and empty council housing, which individuals will be unable to reject.

Mike O'Brien, the Immigration Minister, denied that the plan would mean asylum-seekers being dumped on sink housing estates. He said: "The aim of this policy is to place asylum-seekers in clusters in areas where there is some element of support. We think that this is the best basis to ensure that asylum-seekers will not drift back to London and the South East."

If local authorities do not co-operate, the Government will create a reception zone and order a council to make vacant housing available. If asylum-seekers refuse to co-operate the Government will have the power to stop issuing vouchers to them. Mr Straw denied that such a move would lead to any asylum-seeker facing starvation.

He did not explain how the voucher system would operate, who would issue the vouchers or what would be their value.

The Immigration and Asylum Bill also includes powers to tackle the problem of bogus marriages intended to get round the immigration laws, and regulation of immigration advisers who prey on vulnerable asylum-seekers and immigrants.

Registrars are to be given the power to request evidence of name, age and marital status and nationality from couples seeking to be married. They will be placed under a statutory duty to report suspicions that a marriage is being contracted for the purpose of evading immigration control. The Bill also ends the "quickie" wedding by introducing a 15-day notice period for marriages.

Immigration advisers are to be regulated, with each firm paying £6,300 a year for regulation. Any non-regulated person giving advice faces a maximum two-year jail term.

The Bill also includes measures to speed up the appeals system, with the aim of stopping asylum seekers stringing out their cases. The Government hopes that original asylum decisions will be completed within two months and any appeals in a further four months, though Home Office sources admit that this is an "ambitious target".

Bail hearings will be introduced for immigrants and asylum seekers held in detention centres.

The Bill, the most comprehensive overhaul of asylum and immigration laws since 1971, is aimed at introducing a faster, firmer and fairer system to deal with a backlog of 73,000 cases and cutting asylum applications, which last year reached a record 46,000.

Last night the Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants described the Bill as a missed opportunity that continued the old heavy-handed controls.

· Leading article, page 17

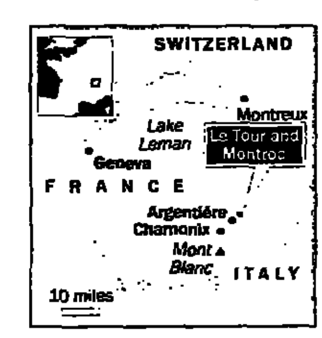
Scores die in heaviest snow across Europe for decades

BY ADAM SAGE IN PARIS, ADAM SHERWIN AND ADRIAN LEE

THE heaviest snowfalls for decades blanketed much of Western Europe yesterday, causing scores of deaths and stretching rescue services to breaking point.

Some of the worst conditions were in the Alps, where a vast area was put on avalanche alert. In France, rescuers were last night still trying to reach survivors believed to be trapped in 20 chalets that were buried under tons of snow in the ski resorts of Le Tour and Montroc in the Chamonix valley. At least two people, a young girl and a man, were confirmed dead.

Some of the 200 rescuers used skis to reach the hamlet of Le Tour, because roads were blocked. Twenty people were pulled alive from chalets that were engulfed by nine feet of snow, but five people were still missing.



A British company, Ski Weekend, which uses the resort, renowned for its easy runs, said that its clients were safe. "Everything is destroyed. My lounge is gone," one villager told French radio. "All villagers are shovelling snow. There are bits of timber and beams. We don't know if we are walking over buried people."

Thousands of British holidaymakers were among those stranded in resorts throughout the region. At least five Britons have died in the Alps in recent days — the latest was named as John Dean, 37, from West Norwood, South London, who lost control while skiing in Meribel and fell into a deep drift. Police said he suffocated before friends could free him.

Skiers have been told to keep to official pistes, with dire warnings that straying into unauthorised areas was "a life-threatening activity".

Another avalanche cut off the railway line to Switzerland near Chamonix and snow blocked access to the Mont Blanc tunnel between Chamonix and Italy. Further north, snow derailed the engine of the Paris-to-Venice train in the region of Besançon.

In western Austria, about 3,000 tourists were stranded for the fourth day running in ski resorts cut off by up to 40cm of snow, the heaviest falls for decades.

Another 3,000 people were caught in Tyrolean resorts that had to be closed yesterday because of fears of avalanches.

Markus Graf, a spokesman for the tourist authority in the resort of Ischgl, where 1,500 holidaymakers remained trapped, said: "At first it was all quite a laugh when we thought the situation would ease off quite quickly. But people have had to get used to the fact that they're going to have to stay here longer and the atmosphere is getting tense."

On Sunday, an 18-year-old snowboarder died in the Tyrolean resort of St Johann after he skidded into a river and froze.

Yesterday, the Swiss authorities closed the country's biggest airport in Zurich and shut down roads amid fears of avalanches. On Sunday, two people died when a slab of snow ripped the top floor off a café in the Alpine resort of Wengen, near the town of Interlaken.

In Sweden, temperatures fell to -12C. In Belgium, the army was called out to clear the motorway to Luxembourg.

In Britain icy conditions caused a bus crash, near Petworth, West Sussex, which left 18 pupils from Herbert Shiner secondary school needing hospital treatment. The worst hit areas of the country were the North East and Scotland where heavy snow falls up to 20cm deep caused chaos on the roads.

Up to 6cm of snow lay over parts of north and east Norfolk, including Norwich. East Yorkshire, the North York Moors, Cambridgeshire, Northamptonshire and parts of the South East also had some snow.

Thousands of children enjoyed an extra day off school after heavy snowfalls forced more than 100 schools in the northeast of Scotland to close. A total of 13,500 pupils in Aberdeenshire could not make it to schools as snow caused problems throughout Britain.

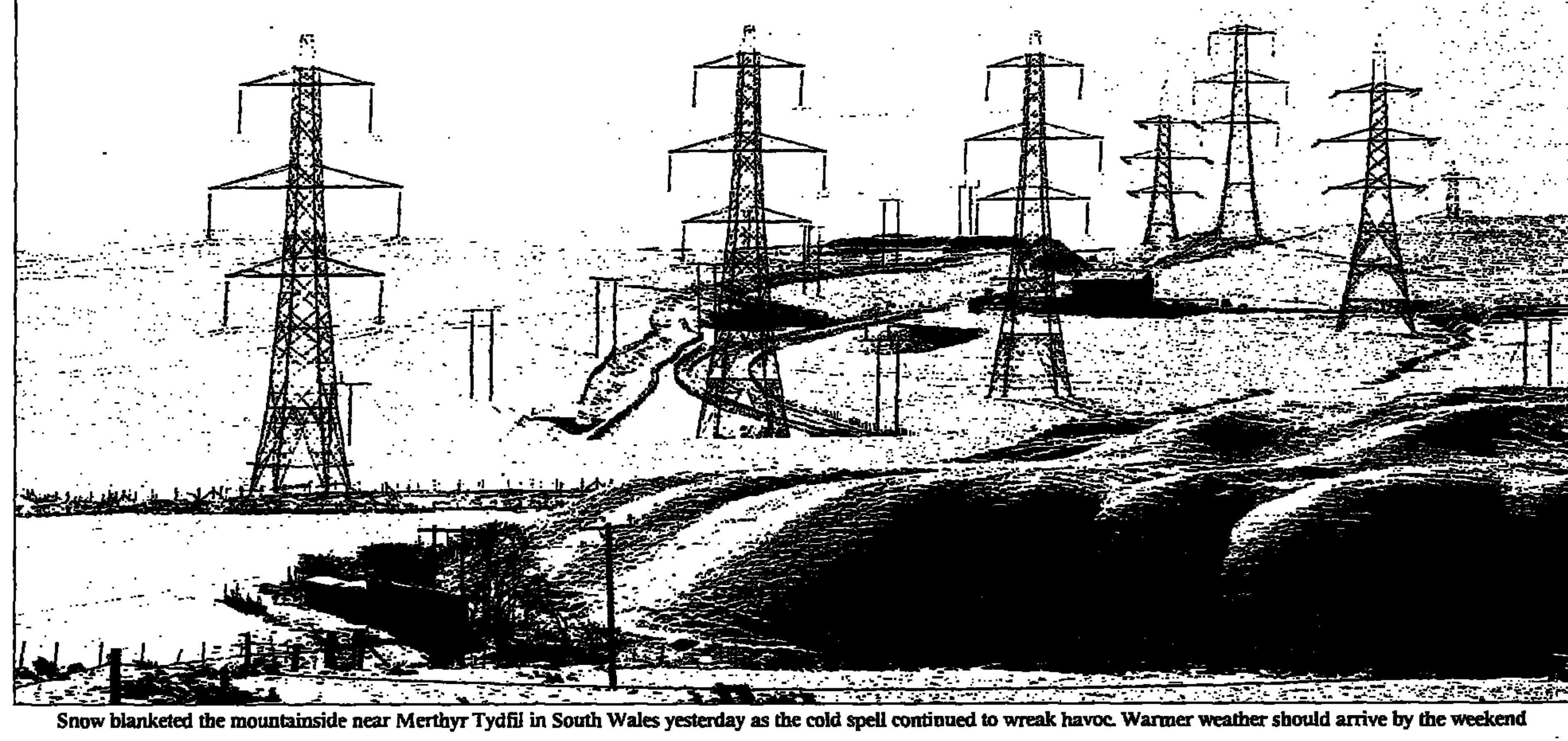
Lothian and Borders Police continued to investigate the death of Yvonne Davidson, 34, a mother of three, who died on Monday after slipping on an icy pavement in Broxburn, West Lothian.

The AA dealt with 18,000 breakdowns and put on 50 extra patrols.

Forecasters predicted no immediate respite from the cold but there was a hint of a thaw, especially in northern areas, with a warm Atlantic front approaching by the weekend.

Forecast, page 20

PHILIP REES



Snow blanketed the mountainside near Merthyr Tydfil in South Wales yesterday as the cold spell continued to wreak havoc. Warmer weather should arrive by the weekend

The worst may not be over for meningitis town

After three deaths, a pupil is critically ill and parents blame official delay, reports Simon de Bruxelles

DOCTORS will not know for nearly a week whether they have contained an outbreak of meningococcal meningitis that has killed three people in one small town.

More than 1,700 pupils and staff at three schools in Pontypridd, South Wales, were vaccinated against the disease yesterday. Seven children are in hospital, bringing the total of cases in the area to 11.

Stuart Mottram, 16, was last night described as "very critically ill". He was a pupil at the same school as Gareth Gould, 15, who died last week. Stuart's parents were praying at his bedside in the University Hospital of Wales in Cardiff. A child aged 11 was described as "critical but improving".

Despite the mass vaccination and the distribution of antibiotics to everyone who had been in close contact with the sick, the doctor in charge of the public health operation gave a warning that it was too early to say if the outbreak was over.

Meirion Evans, a specialist in communicable diseases with Bro Taf Health Authority, said: "We have had no cases in school pupils since Saturday, but we still have a number of days before the incubation period has run it course."

He defended the health authority's decision not to issue antibiotics to children after Gareth's death a week last Sunday. National guidelines advise mass treatment only after more than one case.

Many parents, including those of Lisa Peart, 15, who is recovering at the East Glamorgan General Hospital, said that the authorities could have prevented the illness spreading if they had acted sooner.

On Monday evening, after the declaration of a public health emergency, 38 children were taken to the hospital in Pontypridd. A further 20 had been taken in by lunchtime yesterday. All were allowed home after examination.

On a cold, bright morning, 1,100 pupils from Coed-y-Lan Comprehensive School filed in for their injections. Some were brought by parents while others arrived in a convoy of white school buses, nervously aware that the disease is believed to be spread by close contact in confined spaces. Subdued and apprehensive, few stayed to talk to school friends. Many had not been to school since Gareth died within hours of being taken ill.

Similar scenes were evident at the comprehensive's lower school in the centre of town and at Trerobart Primary, each of which has had two pupils fall ill with the disease. All were relieved that the governors had decided to close the schools until after the half-term holiday next week. Few believed the reassurance of the health authority that the chances of contracting the infection at school were tiny.

Richard Male, 16, said: "If they hadn't closed [Coed-y-Lan], no one would have come in anyway. My parents have kept me off since last week. I've had several people in Ponty ask where I go to school. Some of them are just curious, but others look nervous."

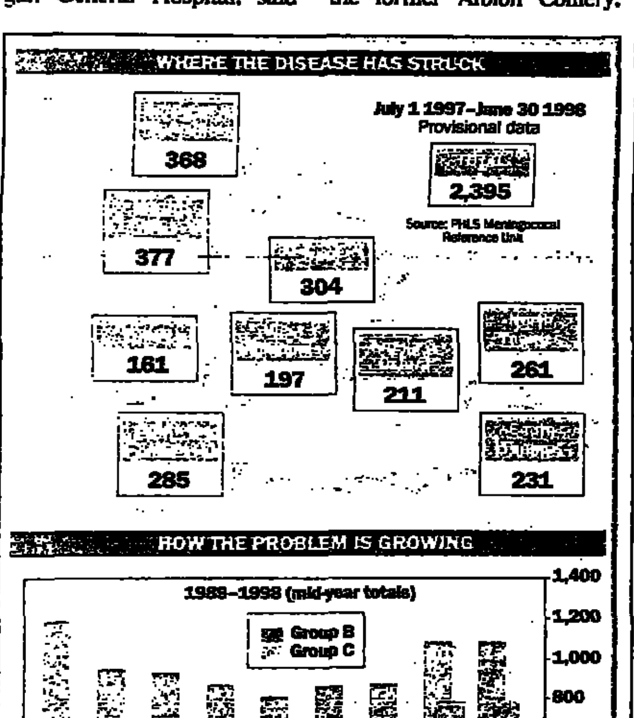
The school is on the site of the former Albion Colliery, scene of one of Britain's worst mining disasters. In July 1894, 290 men and boys were killed, most of them from the same tiny hillside community above the town where several of the meningitis victims live.

Doctors believe that there is no direct connection between the outbreak in the three schools and two other recent deaths in Pontypridd. Lynne James, the head of domestic education at the Roman Catholic Cardinal Newman School, died on Sunday night. A pensioner in her sixties died in the town last month.

Jon Owen Jones, the Welsh Health Minister, told the Commons yesterday that extra vaccines and antibiotics had been brought in from Bristol and the West Midlands.



Children at Coed-y-Lan Comprehensive School after receiving vaccinations yesterday. A fellow pupil has died and another is in intensive care



Better vaccine is on the way

By Nigel Hawkes, Science Editor

THE form of meningitis responsible for the cases in Pontypridd has become much more common in recent years.

Group C meningitis — caused by a particular form of the bacterium *Neisseria meningitidis* — is particularly common in teenagers and seems more prone to causing clusters of cases.

It reached Britain in the early 1990s, probably from Canada, where it had caused outbreaks similar to the one in Pontypridd. In vulnerable people it can cause extremely rapid development of symptoms, and death.

"Some will get very ill very quickly, but in others it is not so life-threatening," according to Julia Warren, of the Meningitis Research Foundation. "We don't know why it affects some people one way and others quite differently."

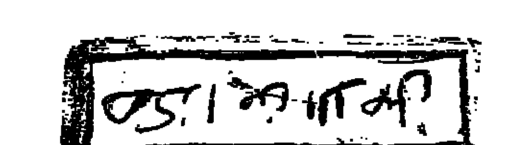
Nor is it known why people in their late teens or early twenties are so vulnerable. Babies are at greatest risk, because their immune systems have yet to develop fully, but the next highest incidence is in those aged 15 to 19.

A research project at the Institute of Child Health in London aims to discover why this group is so vulnerable. Suspicion rests on the changes in lifestyle they experience as students: a wider social life, smoking, drinking, new relationships and possibly also the stress of exams and being away from home are all seen as possible factors.

A vaccine against Group C menigitis does exist, but it is not very effective. It does not work when given to babies under two, and provides only a few years' protection. That is why it is only used to protect populations at high risk during an outbreak. A better vaccine is on the way, as the result of work by the Public Health Laboratory Service and other British organisations.

Early results are said to be "very encouraging", but are incomplete. The vaccine will not be ready until 2001 or 2002. Trials are being delayed by the reluctance of mothers to volunteer their children.

Meningococcal bacteria are far from rare. The risk is not of being infected with the bacterium, but of being one of those who proves vulnerable.



Woodhead hails big improvement in teaching standards

But gap between good and bad remains too wide, writes John O'Leary

STATE schools have achieved a big improvement in standards, despite there still being up to 15,000 incompetent teachers in English classrooms, the *Chief Inspector of Schools* reported yesterday.

Chris Woodhead, in his annual report as head of the Ofsted inspection agency, said the proportion of unsatisfactory lessons had dropped from almost 25 per cent five years ago to 8 per cent in the past school year. He expected the proportion to fall still further in the next 12 months.

Mr Woodhead said: "Looking back over the five years, I think the state of the nation's schools is much healthier than it was." The proportion of unsatisfactory lessons had dropped by 50 per cent in a single year, despite targeting poor secondary schools for a new round of reinspections.

Partly as a result of the agency's scrutiny, behaviour and attendance had picked up, as had standards of teaching and learning, Mr Woodhead said. "The Ofsted trigger to improvement has led to a situation where more children are getting a decent education than would have been the case if it hadn't existed."

However, state education remained a "lottery" for children, with an unacceptably wide gap between good and bad schools, he said. Examination results had yet to reflect the improvement in teaching.

Mr Woodhead added that the evidence from more than 6,000 inspections carried out in 1997-98 supported his controversial claim that 15,000 teachers were incompetent.

He acknowledged that Ofsted's concentration on poor secondary schools was likely to have inflated the figure, but said the reports would suggest that the estimate was correct. Officials believe that the decline in the number of poor lessons could be due to generally satisfactory staff teaching more consistently, leaving a rump of poor performers.

Although new procedures are in place for sacking incompetent teachers, no figures have been released to show how extensively they have been used. Mr Woodhead said anecdotal evidence from inspectors suggested a more rigorous management style in many schools, but about 2,800 head teachers still needed to show stronger leadership.

Mr Woodhead said: "In teaching, as in any other profession, somebody who is not doing the job to the expected level must be told they are a failure and offered training to improve. If eventually they do not make sufficient progress, they must be dismissed."

David Hart, of the National Association of Head Teachers, said the new "fast-track" dismissal procedures were well used. "The vast majority of heads and teachers are performing miracles in the drive to raise standards. There are many more good teachers than poor teachers. Removal of those who are incompetent is becoming one of the fastest growth industries in education." John Dunford, of the Secondary Heads Association, said the report painted an encouraging picture of vast progress. "If the teaching profession gets the recognition it deserves, the crisis in teacher recruitment may ease."

David Blunkett, the Education Secretary, welcomed the report as a vindication of Government policies. "The quality of teaching has improved and as a result, classroom standards have risen."

The report was the most upbeat of Mr Woodhead's five-year tenure of office. "There is reason for optimism," he said. "No one now, or very few, questions the need to raise standards or takes refuge in socio-economic explanations of school failure." He said he was optimistic that the Government would meet its targets for improvement.

☐ The full list of outstanding and improved schools can be found on the Ofsted website: http://www.ofsted.gov.uk

GETTING BETTER ALL THE TIME

Ofsted's most improved schools are:
Barking Abbey Comprehensive School, Barking; Erith School, Erith; Baverstock GM School, Kings Heath, Birmingham; St Thomas Aquinas RC School, Kings Norton, Birmingham; Beardwood School, Blackburn; Malbank School, Nantwich, Cheshire; Bretton Woods Community School, Bretton, Peterborough; St Aidan's County High School, Carlisle; Bishop Barrington Comprehensive School, Bishop Auckland; Villiers High School, Southall; The Bishop Bell C of E School, Eastbourne; Hurlingham and Chelsea School, London SW6; Harrow High School, Harrow; Christ Church C of E High School, Ashford, Kent; Angley School, Cranbrook, Kent; Ruffwood School, Kirkby, Merseyside; Morecambe High School, Morecambe, Lancs; The Hollins County High School, Accrington, Lancs; Alder Grange High School, Rawtenstall, Lancs; The Beauchamp College, Oadby, Leics; The Robert Smyth School, Market Harborough, Leics; Alsop High School, Walton, Liverpool; St John Bosco High School, Croxteth, Liverpool; North Manchester High School for Girls; Stratford School (GM), London E7; Southfield School, Kettering, Northants; Lady Lumley's School, Pickering, North Yorks; Wood Green School, Witney, Oxfordshire; Poole High School; Chadwell Heath School, Romford; Harlescott School, Shrewsbury; The City Technology College, Kingshurst, Birmingham; Whitstone Community School, Shepton Mallet, Somerset; The Eastwood School, Leigh-on-Sea, Essex; The Beacon School (GM), Banstead, Surrey; Chatham Grammar School for Girls, Kent; The Robert Napier School, Gillingham, Kent; Walderslade Girls' School, Chatham, Kent; Gable Hamm GM Comprehensive School, Stanford le Hope, Essex; Morpeth School, London E2; The Clarendon School, Trowbridge, Wilts.

Hard work brings top marks

By Hannah Betts

THE staff at Erith School in Bexley, South London, are proud of its Ofsted mark for making particular improvement — something the head teacher attributes to solid hard work rather than any managerial miracle cures.

Toby Hufford, head for ten years, is suspicious of tales of "superheads" turning round problem schools. "You improve a school by making steady advances across broad fronts. Our own process of regeneration has taken a decade of steady improvement."

Erith is a comprehensive with about 1,750 pupils from a variety of social backgrounds. Between its 1994 and 1998 inspections the school improved across the board in every area of evaluation from teaching and examination results to attendance. The school is now heavily oversubscribed.

The school attributes its success to the fact that it puts the quality of its teaching above all else. In 1989 Mr Hufford inherited a school dominated by in-fighting between staff and managers and has resisted the 1990s dictum that head teachers should distance themselves from the classroom.

"The school has no managers who aren't involved in teaching — myself included. The people who achieved the highest grades for their teaching were our senior management team. The credibility of their advice to staff runs incredibly high as a result."

DAVID JONES



Neil Yates, back with his children, George and Joanne, and wife, Alison. "There is nothing to forgive," she said

Man missing for 6 months returns

By Michael Horsnell

A STRESSED farmworker who vanished more than six months ago apologised to his relieved wife and two young children yesterday after police reunited the family.

Neil Yates, 37, had been living in guest houses more than 200 miles from home. He said he had disappeared because of the stress of his job as harvest approached.

He said: "I didn't realise that I had caused so much trouble. All I can say is I am sorry for all the fuss I have caused. I left home because I was having trouble doing my job and with my home life.

"I didn't want to let anyone down. But in the end I did let everyone down. I wanted a few days on my own and then I couldn't come back."

His wife, Alison, 28, who welcomed him home with a hug at their tied cottage in Flawborough, Nottinghamshire, spoke of the discoveries that kept her hopes alive.

Although he left behind his car, wallet, credit cards, passport and keys, Mr Yates was found to have taken spare clothes. Then it was discovered that he had used his computer to check train times to Kent, where he was found. Police also discovered that, on the morning he disappeared, he had withdrawn £3,000 from a savings account his wife did not know existed.

Mrs Yates, mother of George, three, and Joanne, one, said: "I always knew there was no other woman involved. He was in the field all day and never met anyone, so I knew there was nothing suspicious. I always knew he would come back and I left everything just as it was, even his toothbrush in the bathroom. As far as I'm concerned, there is nothing to forgive." She added: "It's been hard coping on my own. I had to go on income support, but I always knew it wouldn't be for ever."

Her husband, who was found after a tip-off at a hostel in Folkestone, disappeared after failing to arrive at a friend's wedding in Somerset last July. Promising to join his wife after she had travelled ahead, his last words in a telephone call were: "I love you."

Mr Yates added: "I couldn't face going to the wedding because of the problems at work. It was a social event and I couldn't handle it.

"I just want to say that my ex-employer, John Hawthorne, is a friend and he wasn't to blame for what happened.

"I felt dreadful about leaving the children. I now plan to go for counselling and I want to get out of farming. My advice to people suffering from stress is to talk to others and tell them how you feel, rather than go away as I did."

Iris Murdoch's funeral plea

By Dalya Alberge
Arts Correspondent

IRIS MURDOCH had explicitly requested that there be no funeral or memorial service held in her honour, her literary agent said yesterday.

Ed Victor, her friend and agent of 15 years, said that his office had been inundated with calls from readers wanting to take part in some form of commemoration for the writer, but he had urged them to reread one of her novels instead.

One option open to those wanting a minimum of fuss after their death is to have an unattended cremation with no service or ceremony. Alison Samuel, the publishing director of Chatto and Windus, Murdoch's publisher, said that the author's wish to avoid a fuss being made of her demonstrated her modesty: "She never sought publicity. She'd come in with her typed scripts, quietly, with no fanfare," Ms Samuel said.

Ms Samuel said that Murdoch's death, however, was still likely to boost the sales of her books. "That's the awful thing about life and death. It takes someone to die for people to recognise their literary worth. Iris Murdoch has always been recognised as one of the great writers this century, but people forget from time to time."

Murdoch, who died on Monday after a long period of suffering from Alzheimer's disease, asked Mr Victor several years ago to be her literary executor. He said yesterday that he did not believe there were any unpublished book manuscripts.

"If Iris herself didn't want a novel published, there is no reason it should be published now," he said. "She left behind a tremendous legacy. I've always been disappointed that she was never given a Nobel."

However, Mr Victor said that Murdoch may have left a vast archive of letters, as she "spent hours writing an immense correspondence". Instead of simply signing a contract, he said, she would return it with the most "charming note".

Doctors clash over checks on failures

By Ian Murray, Medical Correspondent

A GROUP of senior doctors is in revolt against plans by the leadership of General Medical Council to bring in a centralised checking system to ensure that all doctors are fit to practise.

The plans, aimed at restoring public confidence in the profession after recent well-publicised failures, were expected to be rubber-stamped by the 104 council members meeting today. However, Edwin Borman, a consultant anaesthetist at Walsgrave Hospital in Coventry, has circulated all other council members with a plan for a local system which he says is cheaper, more efficient and less bureaucratic.

"I have already had very widespread support and interest in my ideas from members and the debate in council will be very lively and even," he said. "We have never had the chance to debate the GMC's plan properly and people think it is being imposed on them without being properly thought through."

Public and Government confidence in the profession has been dented by failures at the Bristol heart-surgery unit and the negligence of Rodney Ledward, the Kent gynaecologist whose operations injured scores of women. The GMC is aware that, if it fails, the Government is ready to scrap the system that allows the profession to police itself.

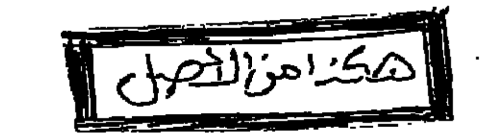
With time running out, Sir Donald Irvine, the GMC president, has decided that the best way is to ensure every doctor is subject to external peer review every five years. Those whose work is substandard would be removed from the register if they cannot be helped to improve.

Dr Borman wants to see constant vetting of each doctor and department by a local standards committee. Whistleblowers would be able to ask for a spot check from the Government's new Commission on Health Improvements, with failing doctors referred to the GMC for discipline as a last resort.

The president agrees that local assessment is important but insists that to command confidence a regular external review is essential. He will tell the GMC that it will take another two years before a pilot scheme can be started along these lines and that it will be possible to introduce the system only gradually to cover each branch of the profession.

The system would probably need primary legislation and considerable resources. The Royal College of Physicians, which brought out its own performance rules last week, says that this kind of peer review will necessitate the creation of more consultants.

Dr Borman, a former chairman of the BMA's junior doctors committee, says that a locally centred system makes it possible to identify doctors with problems at an earlier stage and would also make allowances for the environment in which staff were working.



Museum invites you to jive in its funky spaces

By Peter Foster

A MUSEUM is to open next month with the aim of changing people's perception of pop music. Instead of being seen as a filthy noise that parents ask their children to turn down, it will be presented as a genuine art form.

Visitors to the £15 million lottery-funded National Centre for Popular Music in Sheffield will not find spangly suits once worn by Elvis. Mere memorabilia will not be allowed. Instead, visitors will be asked to consider the social, cultural and historical impact of pop.

Stuart Rogers, chief executive at the centre, said: "Its creation was the result of a dream, a meeting of minds that wanted to provide a living historical reference for popular music as well as offering a base for stimulating, creating and growing new styles of music and musical talent."

The building itself, four stainless-steel drums with revolving roofs, is designed to be part of the experience. Its creator, Nigel Coates, explained: "The tilt of the drums makes you aware of your own movement. The building invites you off the street to jive in its funky spaces."

The first drum is a 200-seat theatre in the round with 3D sound from 16 wall-mounted speakers. Visitors will be taken on a whistle-stop tour of world music, from a Nigerian teacher singing to her children to a gospel choir from Harlem. A barely audible voice-over asks if you can "feel the heartbeat of the music".

In the next hall, visitors are shown films on three giant screens that "celebrate the global and historical impact of popular music". Images of pop stars flash by alongside images from their birthplace — Shirley Bassey sings *Diamonds are Forever* accompanied by footage of Welsh coalmines.

More baffling is the arena in which visitors wander through rooms where music accompanies more films. In one, viewers sit on a red heart-shaped sofa and watch a video of songs relating to love. This "celebrates the development of human relationships: falling in love, breaking up and making up".

Nowhere do you discover which songs are playing. Welcome relief from so much abstraction is to be found in the fourth drum in which you are invited to have a go. You can listen to your voice being electronically distorted, remix a song and bang on a selection of drums. Do not go in here if you are susceptible to migraines.

Tim Strickland, the project's creative director, says he wants people to explore. "It's about making your own mind up. We're talking about the MTV generation who are used to picking up soundbites. It's about giving people choice."

Mr Strickland is a former manager of The Specials, the Coventry-based ska band that had hits in the 1980s with *Ghost Town* and *Nelson Mandela*. He said: "We have tried to do something very ambitious and it may be that punters will need a few more cues."

Drum set: the four halls of the pop museum in Sheffield

Leading article, page 17

Hand gestures tie tongues

By Ian Murray
Medical Correspondent

PEOPLE who talk with their hands end up tongue-tied, while those who keep their arms folded enable their minds to find words more efficiently, a study has found.

Researchers from Manchester University induced in 60 people a "tip-of-the-tongue" (TOT) state — one in which they could not think of a particular word, but believed that they were on the verge of remembering it. It caused one in seven subjects to appear to be in mild torment, as though on the brink of a sneeze, and there was considerable relief when the word was recalled.

During the study, the findings of which are published in the *British Journal of Psychology*, the subjects were given definitions of 25 relatively uncommon words, such as glockenspiel, accordion, pagoda, Neanderthal and isosceles, and asked to identify them.

Those told to keep their arms folded had a more efficient retrieval process and were right 73 per cent of the time. Those who were allowed to gesture experienced TOT states more frequently, and were right 67 per cent of the time. The non-gesticulators, however, found it more difficult to break out of TOT states.



A sight to stop the traffic

THIS driver's nightmare is, fortunately for the motorists of East London, a sculpture designed to release the imagination rather than control the traffic (Robin Young writes). The eight-metre-tall creation, which carries 75 sets of flashing red, green and amber lights, is the work of the French artist Pierre Vivant and is the winner of an international competition organised by the Public Art Commissions Agency on behalf of the now-defunct London Docklands Development Corporation. Each set of lights on the "tree", on the Westferry Circus roundabout at Canary Wharf in London's Docklands, has a cycle controlled by a computer. It was thought originally that the speed of the changes could be programmed to reflect movements on the Stock Exchange, but that proved too expensive for the project, which has already cost nearly £100,000. The work took six months to complete. Motorists claim to have mistaken the tree for real traffic lights. Nick Hosie, a contracts manager, said: "I stopped for ages before I realised they were not working properly."

Game firm censured for mock medicals

By Joanna Bale

SONY was censured by the Advertising Standards Authority yesterday for a direct mailing campaign based on spoof medical test results.

The company was also criticised over an advertisement for a computer game that depicted legs on a mortuary slab, although a similar image in a Help the Aged campaign escaped censure.

Seventy-eight Sony PlayStation owners, many awaiting results of medical tests, complained to the Advertising Standards Authority after receiving brown envelopes marked "private and confidential" and stating "test results".

"Medical cards" inside said they were being written to "as a matter of urgency with your scan results. They reveal early stages of a progressive condition for which I am prescribing immediate treatment — acute lack of stimulation of the sensory organs has resulted in a marked deterioration of digi-colour (thumb/eye) co-ordination. This is potentially serious, but treatable with any of the three non-prescription options detailed on the enclosed X-rays."

A statement reading: "This is not a piece of genuine medical communication" appeared under the terms and conditions on the reverse of the card.

Sony admitted the mailing had been poorly targeted, as many registered owners were parents or other older relatives of younger users, and apologised for the offence caused.

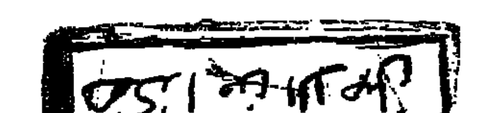
The authority said: "Because the advertisers had not targeted the mailing effectively, it was likely to offend, particularly those awaiting the results of medical tests."

A poster for the Sony computer game Tekken 3 showed feet protruding from opposite ends of a sheet, to indicate that the body was dismembered. There was no blood or other signs of violence. The authority upheld ten complaints that it was "distasteful and indecent".

Sony said that it had intended to convey a surreal situation by positioning the body parts in the advertisement in a fanciful manner reminiscent of a cartoon catastrophe.

A Help the Aged newspaper advertisement showed six pairs of feet bearing death tags marked "hypothermia", "pneumonia", "bronchitis" and "unknown". The text said: "Thousands of elderly people will stop feeling the cold this winter" and appealed for donations.

The authority rejected seven complaints that the references to death were "offensive and frightening". A spokesman said: "A charity or pressure group may wish to use a shocking picture to illustrate a point. But it is an entirely different matter to do it to sell computer games."



هكذا في الأصل

'Someone is not telling the truth. We cannot ascertain what that truth is' says damning report on handling of Sandline affair. **Valerie Elliott** reports

MPs condemn 'Yes Minister' contempt

SIR JOHN KERR, the Foreign Office Permanent Secretary, headed a cast of civil servants accused by MPs yesterday of *Yes Minister*-like contempt over the arms-to-Africa affair.

He was accused of failing in his duty to ministers — one of the most serious criticisms of a civil servant. The damning indictment of officials at every rank dominated the report by the Commons Foreign Affairs Select Committee.

It castigated them for failing to brief ministers about alleged sanctions-busting by Sandline International, a firm of military consultants which was supplying arms to help to restore the deposed government of President Kabbah of Sierra Leone in defiance of a UN embargo. Sir John was said to have withheld details of a Customs inquiry into Sandline's activities from Robin Cook for four weeks, even after Customs investigators had raided the Foreign Office. The MPs said the delays in keeping ministers informed could be seen as buying time to "ensure that officials' backs were covered".

The MPs made clear their anger with the Foreign Secretary's refusal last summer to co-operate with their inquiry while an internal investigation was being carried out by Sir Thomas Legg, a retired senior civil servant. They questioned Legg's findings after uncovering evidence that he had been "misinformed".

MPs were also unhappy with Mr Cook's initial refusal to allow them to inspect top secret papers and with government "obduracy" in refusing MPs a private hearing or a briefing from Sir David Spedding, the head of MI6. However, the report cleared ministers of conniving in any plot to allow arms shipments and of misleading Parliament. Tory members of the committee said ministers should share the blame for failures but were voted down by the Labour majority.

Ministers and officials were strongly criticised for their public interpretation of the UN arms embargo. MPs stressed that, had they made clear the embargo applied equally to the Government-in-exile of President Kabbah as much as to the military junta, the whole affair could have been avoided.

The report said: "Half-truths are a dangerous commodity in which to trade." The MPs also said that never again should government policy be presented in any way that could mislead Parliament, the public or Foreign Office staff.

The most senior diplomats singled out over "serious errors of judgment" were Richard Dales, director Africa command — who has now been promoted to Ambassador — and Ann Grant, then head of the Africa Department (Equatorial) — who has now been given Mr Dales's old job.

"The way in which no one with a right to put papers up to ministers — Ms Grant, Mr Dales or Sir John Kerr — did in fact do so reveals at best political naivety and at worst a *Yes, Minister*-like contempt for civil servants' duties towards their ministers."

MPs were alarmed that Peter Penfold, the High Commissioner to Sierra Leone, believed the arms embargo only applied to the junta. He should have made it his business to check its precise terms.

MPs were also amazed that officials had not recognised the importance of a minute from Mr Penfold which was "*prima facie* evidence that criminal wrongdoing occurred and that the High Commissioner and the department in London might be regarded as complicit".

But while MPs hailed Mr Penfold's bravery during the conflict, his relations with Sandline were judged "open to criticism". He was berated for failing for six weeks to pass on Sandline's plans to his colleagues in London. Mr Penfold insisted he had attended a meeting in the Foreign Office when he discussed his belief there was a contract between Sandline and President Kabbah.

The MPs state: "Someone is not telling the truth. We cannot ascertain what that truth is."

MPs were incredulous that even though Sir John knew of the Customs inquiry into Sandline for three weeks, Mr Cook only learned about it in a letter from Sandline's solicitors claiming the company had acted with the authority of the Foreign Office. "The Permanent Under-Secretary must be held responsible for this unacceptable situation. It represents a serious failure of communication," the MPs said.

Colonel Tim Spicer of Sandline was also criticised. MPs believe there was no excuse for him not to know the rules about arms sales to Sierra Leone and stated: "If Mr Spicer truly was not aware of the Order in Council then his firm and their advisers are guilty of professional incompetence."

Simon Jenkins, page 16
Leading article, page 17

THE CHANGES THEY WANT

- Clear policy statements on future arms embargos to MPs, officials and public
- Diplomats to be reminded of constitutional responsibility to ministers and Parliament
- Ministers to respect requests for information from select committees
- Foreign Affairs Select Committee to have access to intelligence material and MI6 witnesses
- Foreign Office to review arrangements for handling intelligence from outside agencies
- All overseas posts to be given secure communications equipment
- Ministers to be informed of any diplomat facing possible charges
- Government to introduce consultation document on laws on British mercenaries


Spicer: criticised for failing to know rules on arm sales

Kerr: accused of failing in his duty to ministers

SAM KILEY

Peter Penfold, centre, in Freetown: MPs said the High Commissioner might be seen as complicit in criminal wrongdoing

Penfold did talk to London

BY SAM KILEY, AFRICA CORRESPONDENT

PETER PENFOLD continued to work in war-torn Freetown yesterday, defying death threats from rebel forces.

Intelligence sources said that a "very high price in terms of money and prestige" had been put on the head of the British High Commissioner to Sierra Leone, a national hero in the former British colony, where he has to travel with a bodyguard of military police and a small detachment of Royal Marines.

Having returned to Freetown after a second evacuation prompted by a rebel attack on the Sierra Leone capital, Mr Penfold continues to have close contact with the democratic Government of President Kabbah.

But the threats to Mr Penfold and British military personnel from rebels hiding in a forest overlooking the British High Commission and his residence mean that he spends his nights aboard *HMS Westminster*, a frigate stationed offshore which monitors Sierra Leone and offers humanitarian assistance. Awarded the title of "paramount chief" by the Kabbah Government, Mr Penfold's role in the Sandline affair remains murky. The Foreign Affairs Select Committee found that he did not communicate with the Foreign Office for six crucial weeks in late 1997 and early 1998 when he was in Conakry, Guinea, with the exiled Kabbah government: but investigations by *The Times* have shown that he and other officials with him in Conakry did communicate with London using the German Embassy's secure systems.

The Ministry of Defence, British Intelligence and the Foreign Office all received regular transmissions from Mr Penfold and other officials using a channel the Foreign Office has been reluctant to admit was open to it, claiming it worked in one direction only, from Bonn to Conakry.

Democratic rule remains precarious with continued fighting between west African peacekeepers and the rebels.



Landmine ban is defied on border

From James Pettifer in Prizren

SERB military engineers in Kosovo are laying tens of thousands of internationally outlawed anti-personnel landmines along key corridors on the Albanian border in a desperate attempt to stop the flow of weapons and ammunition reaching Kosovo Liberation Army units.

The minefields are in the hills near Gorozup, above the River Drina valley, 18 miles west of here and east of the KLA strongholds in the Tropojë region of Albania, near the border with Montenegro.

A team of experts from the International Committee of the Red Cross is compiling a report on the situation to be sent to Western Governments. A Red Cross spokesman in Geneva said yesterday: "Reports coming in from our Kosovo delegation concern us a great deal."

Yugoslavia is one of the largest manufacturers among the 25 countries that still make mines. The December 1997 Ottawa accord bans their use, and Yugoslavia is among the 123 signatories to

> 'Yugoslavia is one of the largest manufacturers among countries making mines'

the agreement. But in Kosovo seven different types of sophisticated anti-personnel mines have been found by munitions experts attached to the Kosovo Verification Mission run by the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe.

In accordance with an October 1998 agreement on Kosovo, Yugoslavia is allowed to maintain a three-mile no-go zone along its border. Privately, OSCE monitors say that it is far wider in some places.

In theory Serb Army escorts ensure the safety of all border visits by monitors. In practice this allows the Serbs to lay huge minefields. "We have to work with them on that basis," one former British Army officer said.

Serb military sources see mines as a regrettable necessity, given the inaccessible nature of the boundary between Albania and Montenegro.

For now, the hostilities have been brought to a standstill by the worst winter in ten years and the hope that the Paris peace negotiations will prove fruitful. But, whatever the outcome at Rambouillet, the menace of the minefields will remain.



Serb role vital for Kosovo peace, says Cook

From Tom Walker in Rambouillet

ROBIN COOK, the Foreign Secretary, dashed the hopes of Albanian delegates at the Kosovo peace conference yesterday by telling them face-to-face that Nato troops would not enter the province until an agreement was reached that included Belgrade.

"There is no question of Nato putting troops on the ground unless there is a political settlement," he said, after visiting the Château Rambouillet with his French counterpart, Hubert Védrine.

Mr Cook said that within a few days the conference could be "three-quarters of the way there," but added that the thorniest issues of a new police force and reduced Yugoslav army presence posed the final, and much higher, negotiating hurdle.

Mr Cook denied he had flown in earlier than expected because of any crisis in the talks, and insisted he had been pleasantly surprised by the progress made. He said Rambouillet could still turn the contested province into a "democratic, self-governing Kosova, free from repression and bloodshed".

Throughout his media interviews he referred to the province by its Albanian "Kosova" title and not the Yugoslav "Kosovo," and he again warned the Belgrade regime of Slobodan Milosevic that it was caught in a "conflict that it cannot win that is keeping them isolated from the world community." Serb sources had earlier confirmed that for the first time, detailed reports from Rambouillet were being fed back to Mr Milosevic's office in Belgrade by a secure computer link set up in the Yugoslav Embassy in Paris. They hinted that while the Serbian Government was still implacably opposed to a Nato intervention force, it could look favourably upon a United Nations-led peacekeeping effort.

Mr Cook said he was sure Mr Milosevic was being kept informed, and said that his absence did not diminish the conference in any way. Neither was he bothered, he said, by persistent rumours from the château that the Serbs and Albanians never shared the same room, and scarcely even greeted one another. "If they don't come together until the final agreement that's fine by us," he said.

Earlier, the three international mediators in the talks emerged from the château. They claimed unanimity of purpose, although the Russian envoy, Boris Maiorski, hinted at problems to come for the West and Nato with his denouncement of Albanian demands for immediate intervention and his support for the cherished Serb principle of the inviolability of Yugoslavia's borders.

"We are firm believers in a political settlement, and only a political settlement, to the crisis," said the Russian, who also refused to be drawn on the security and defence issues that are likely to put Russia at odds with its Contact Group partners. "If you put the cart before the horse everyone moves, but it is very uncomfortable," he said obliquely.

Christopher Hill, the American mediator, urged both sides to stop spinning their negotiating positions. Deciding instead how a parliament, ombudsman and new constitution could work over the next three years could give those living in Kosovo a comfortable life, he said. "We are telling them to eat their vegetables first and then by the end we will have a settlement that works."

He said Rambouillet was an attempt to clear up a mess left by the disintegration of the Ottoman empire.

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Boris Maiorski, left, the Russian envoy, and Christopher Hill, the US mediator, yesterday

Sir Norman Foster's modern eagle and, from top right, the black eagle of 1890; the swastika emblem of 1937, and the silver and gold of 1950

Germans give fat symbol the bird

Roger Boyes reports on Germany's new confident, but not over-assertive image

THE eagles, to coin a phrase, have landed. After years of debate, Germany has settled on the shape of the bird that will serve as its national symbol.

There are in fact two eagles. One has been designed by Sir Norman Foster and will hover behind the Speaker's platform in his widely admired recasting of the Reichstag in Berlin. It is a slimmed down version of the "fat hen" — the overfed bird that has dominated the parliamentary chamber in Bonn since 1952.

The second eagle is the emblem that will be portrayed on government letterheads, outside ministries and in all the usual political hunting grounds. This one has been designed by an Iraqi-born graphic artist, Rayan Abdullah. It is slightly more virile than Sir Norman's.

Both men have made extraordinary efforts to find a bird that is reassuring but not feeble: self-confident without being over-assertive. This, it is generally agreed, should be the new image of Germany as it moves its capital to Berlin this year. Fat eagles, like fat leaders, are out.

The new eagle has to look as if it is capable of flying. Herr Abdullah, who works for the Berlin agency MetaDesign, fed the post-war eagle into his computer and found 14 weak points: the tongue was too thick, its back was hunched, the feathers manicured, and the talons too long. Like Sir Norman, he worked his way through dozens of ornithological works and books on heraldry.

He bought a season ticket to Berlin Zoo. Over the months he gathered 3,000 individual eagle portraits. The eagle is the most popular heraldic symbol after the lion. The Roman eagle was taken over by Emperor Charlemagne and thus passed on to German heraldry.

The bird always adapted to the times. Sometimes it carried a sword, sometimes a shield; sometimes it wore an imperial crown. The Reichsadler of newly-united Germany in 1871 looked ready for a scrap. By 1900 the eagle was wearing a steel helmet. The Weimar Republic eagle was proud and muscular. The Nazi eagle naturally clutched a swastika.

Herr Abdullah's new eagle is not only slimmer than the 1950s version, it is also more cerebral. He has been given a bigger head and the muscles have been reduced. It is a thinking eagle more than one that shows strength.

The talons are open, like a fielder waiting for a cricket ball, and the feathers are allowed to grow freely rather than being subject to a military crop. It is an eagle, most observers seem to agree, that one could take home to show one's mother, almost domesticated, with just a hint of raffishness.

Herr Abdullah seems to have had an easier time with his eagle than Sir Norman. Advised that the Reichstag eagle would have to undergo a makeover, Sir Norman says he spent much time "living the world of eagles, studying them, reading about them and trying to learn as much about them as possible."

He found that German heraldic eagles resembled crows, swans or doves and he decided he would give the eagle back its identity. Above all, it should look ready for take-off, resembling the Reichstag in being a "phoenix reborn and rising from the ashes".

The architect — whose great (historically sensitive) innovation is to build a glass dome on the Reichstag and thus fill it with light — presented his ideas at meeting after meeting to broad political approval.

The eagle will hover and be seen from two sides inside the chamber. But it is not easy to adapt national symbols, especially such a highly visible one. First, left and rightwingers began to disagree.

Conservatives wanted more beak and sharper talons, and leftwingers wanted a friendly eagle, a kind of avian version of Flipper the dolphin.

And then the heirs of Ludwig Gries, the designer of the original "fat hen", argued that his bird was subject to copyright. No one should fiddle around with it.

When the Reichstag houses the first session of the modern German parliament in April, Sir Norman's final version will at last be on public view: a modest adjustment of the fat hen, with thinner neck and body.

Cynics say this fairly represents the transition from Helmut Kohl, the previous Chancellor, to his successor, Gerhard Schröder — a bird that still likes its dinner but is willing to forgo second helpings — a pragmatic weight-watching kind of eagle.

Britain in clash over Hong Kong law

From Jill McGivering in Hong Kong

BRITAIN yesterday entered a row about Hong Kong's legal autonomy that is fast becoming the territory's worst constitutional crisis since the handover from Britain to China 19 months ago. London said that any move to restrict the powers of Hong Kong's highest court after a landmark ruling would be of serious concern.

The British Consulate said in a statement that a ruling by the Court of Final Appeal last month giving mainland children born to Hong Kong residents right of abode was a "reaffirmation of Hong Kong's autonomy in judicial matters". It said the ruling had bolstered international confidence in the "one country, two systems" concept that guaranteed Hong Kong a high degree of autonomy from China after the 1997 handover.

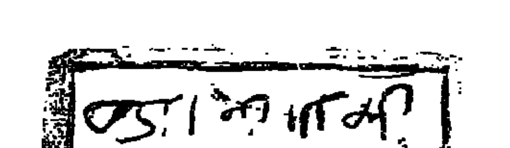
"Any move to restrict the independent judicial power of the Court of Final Appeal would be a matter of serious concern to us," it said.

But the ruling, which could benefit hundreds of thousands of children, has come under fierce attack from China. A group of prominent legal experts on the mainland were quoted by China's state news agency as criticising it. They accused the ruling of violating the Basic Law and posing a challenge to the National People's Congress, the nominal Chinese parliament.

Now Zhao Qizheng, a senior mainland official, has told reporters that the ruling breached the Basic Law and should be changed. His words increased fears that Beijing might overturn the ruling, a move that would seriously undermine confidence in the rule of law here.

Martin Lee, the chairman of the Hong Kong Democratic Party, has described the controversy as an atomic bomb.

Beijing has so far been cautious. The Foreign Ministry said yesterday that the legal experts should be taken seriously, but added that support for the "one country, two systems" concept remained unchanged.



Saint-Exupéry: death is one of great myths

Hunt for French hero 'illegal'

By Adam Sage

SEARCHERS trying to solve the riddle of Antoine de Saint-Exupéry's Second World War disappearance were yesterday denounced by the French author's family.

A spokesman for his heirs made public their opposition to the "illegal" hunt for the aircraft in which the writer, pilot and boy's hero crashed on July 31, 1944.

Interest in one of the greatest modern French mysteries was rekindled by the discovery last autumn near Marseilles of a bracelet said to have belonged to the author. Scientists now say it may be a fake planted by one of many people obsessed by the myth.

However, such doubts have failed to stop growing numbers of bounty-hunters trying to find the P38 Lockheed Lightning in which he crashed while on a reconnaissance mission.

The Paris daily *France-Soir* reports that specialist firms in southern French have sold out of underwater electronic research equipment since news of the bracelet's discovery surfaced in the French press.

Frederic Agay, the aviation pioneer's great-nephew, said he had reminded "the highest authorities of their duty to preserve the tomb", adding that the Defence Ministry said searches for the P38 were illegal.

Sacked Euro rebel fights for dissenters

Timely case puts Commission on defensive, writes Charles Bremner in Brussels

THE RIGHT of a Eurocrat to dissent from official policy is to be tested in the European Court today when it hears a claim for wrongful dismissal from a former British official who tried to "blow the whistle" on the project for monetary union.

The case of Bernard Connolly, an EU Commission officer who was sacked for attacking the monetary project in a 1995 book, is seen by the Brussels executive as a simple breach of staff rules.

Mr Connolly's offence, according to the Commission, was that he published his book, *The Rotten Heart of Europe*, without permission and voiced in it views that were in "fundamental disagreement" with the policy of promoting monetary union.

However, the affair has taken on fresh weight, coming to the Court of Justice as the Brussels executive has been thrown on the defensive by the European parliament over its alleged culture of secrecy and unaccountability.

Mr Connolly, 49, sees his case as a precursor to that of Paul van Buitenen, the Dutch audit official at the Commission who has been suspended for attempting to highlight alleged corruption. Likening his case to that of Mr van Buitenen, Mr Connolly said yesterday: "The court will be testing the presumption of arrogance and unaccountability at the Commission."

Lawyers for Mr Connolly, who is now employed by an American financial concern, will argue to the Luxembourg judges that the Commission acted in breach of its own rules, the EU's Treaty of Rome and the guarantee of free speech in the European Human Rights Convention. They are claiming £170,000 in damages for libel and wrongful dismissal.

The crux of the case is that Mr Connolly, who headed the Commission's unit monitoring the exchange rate mechanism, was sacked for simply voicing dissent and had no chance of a hearing to defend himself on the main charges.

The desire to get rid of Mr Connolly was evident from hostile statements made by Jacques Santer, President of the Commission, and other officials, as soon as the book was serialised in *The Times* ahead of publication in September 1995, his lawyers argue. A decision to sack Mr Connolly was taken long before the disciplinary tribunal that ordered his dismissal in January 1996, says Mr Connolly. "It was exposing a different policy view that got me the chop."

Commission lawyers will say Mr Connolly was treated no differently from any civil servant who goes public with a strong and unauthorised attack on the policies that he is employed to promote. He had known he was breaching the rules, they will say.

Mr Connolly's lawyers will focus on the failure of the Commission's disciplinary hearing to challenge him on the contents of the book although his public condemnation of a core Commission policy was later cited as the main reason for his dismissal. The chief witness against him, Giovanni Ravasio, head of the economic and monetary directorate, told the hearing that he had not even read the book, according to court papers.

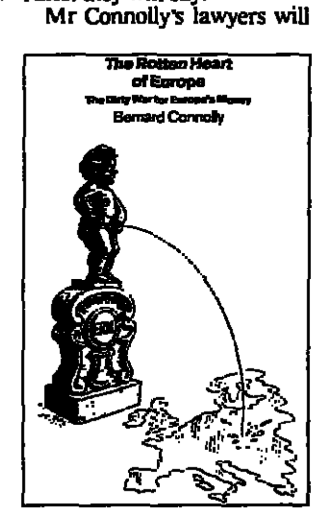
Mr Connolly does not dispute that he did not obtain permission to publish on subjects related to the job. However, he insists that he was acting as a loyal civil servant who was obeying his conscience and formal obligation to act in the interests of the EU.

He had wanted the chance to argue his case that the future single currency, since baptised the euro, was a project hostile to the interests of the Union. "There was absolutely no discussion of this supposed policy contradiction," he says.

Still fervently opposed to the euro, which was launched last month, Mr Connolly said the Commission had avoided challenging the thesis of his book because it exposed their "hidden agenda of using monetary union for the creation of a political, economic and military superstate." Nothing in the past three years had changed his opposition to the monetary project, he said. "It is about a political superstate dominated by France and Germany and this is very clearly being borne out."

For the EU's orthodox mainstream, Mr Connolly's fierce critique of monetary union is seen as marginal and somewhat eccentric. However, his legal attack on the Commission's alleged punishment of his "blasphemy" is no longer as quixotic as it appeared. Mr Santer and his Commission are now effectively on probation while a team of high-level investigators delves into its murkier practices.

A ruling by the Luxembourg judges is unlikely before the summer.



Connolly's book: told of 'hidden agenda'

JEAN-CHRISTOPHE KAHN / REUTERS



Laurent Fabius, the former French Prime Minister, arriving at the specially constituted court in Paris yesterday and, below, Sylvie Rouy, 36, who was given Aids-tainted blood after the birth of her first child in 1985



Victims vent anger at tainted blood trial

From Adam Sage in Paris

VICTIMS of France's HIV-contaminated blood scandal yesterday made plain their anger and suffering on the opening day of the trial in Paris of the former Prime Minister, Laurent Fabius, and two former health ministers.

"Are you not ashamed of yourselves?" asked Agnes Cochin, 50, whose five-year-old son died after being given infected blood.

Her comments came as the unprecedented hearing was marked by controversy over the absence of key witnesses, including a Cambridge professor. M Fabius, 52, and two of his health ministers, Georgina Dufoix, 55, and Edmond Hervé, 56, are accused of manslaughter for allowing the use of the infected blood in transfusions in 1985. Each faces up to five years in jail for allegedly failing to ensure that blood products were screened and treated. Of the 4,333 people who contracted Aids after receiving transfusions, more than 1,000 have died.

Giving evidence yesterday, Mme Cochin said: "Ignoring Aids in 1985 is like saying you didn't know about concentration camps in 1945." She added, in a voice strangled by emotion, that her son, Charles-Edouard, had caught Aids after a transfusion during treatment for jaundice in 1985, and died in 1991.

Gilles Perárd, whose father, 73, died of Aids after being given contaminated blood in 1985, told the Ministers: "I hope you are punished. You did not do your jobs properly." Yves Aupic, who contracted Aids after a transfusion, called the trial a "mascarade" and the court "partisan".

The specially constituted Court of Justice of the Republic ordered witnesses to attend after doctors who ran the blood bank said that they would stay away. They are likely to challenge the ruling.

Giving evidence yesterday, M Fabius said: "I am thinking about those who have suffered so much. They thought they would be cared for. They were contaminated. For years, not a single day has gone by without me thinking about them and their pain."





Three named in Salt Lake City scandal

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

THREE top Salt Lake City Olympic officials were identified yesterday as linchpins in the corruption scandal that has clouded the future of the 2002 Winter Games and the entire Olympic movement.

The scandal could lead to prison terms for those accused of giving six-figure cash bribes and other perks in return for International Olympic Committee members' votes.

Tom Welch, Dave Johnson and Craig Peterson, all former members of the bids committee that secured the Games for the Utah capital, have been accused in a report of deceiving fellow committee members and making hidden payments to IOC members in their headlong rush for votes in 1993. The payments are thought to have totalled $800,000 (£488,000).

The names were released yesterday with the publication of a report by the Salt Lake Organising Committee's internal ethics investigation, one of five inquiries under way into the corruption charges. It suggests that by acting behind the backs of their fellow Salt Lake "boosters", Mr Welch and Mr Johnson protected others from exposure to the corruption. But the document was swiftly criticised as flawed because all three men refused to cooperate with the investigators on their lawyers' advice.

Mr Welch and Mr Johnson have resigned from the organising committee and Mr Peterson, allegedly a key player in arranging the illicit payments, was forced off the committee in 1996. But all three may still be targets of one of the other investigations now in progress, which is by the FBI on behalf of the US Justice Department and could bring trials, fines and jail terms for anyone con-



victed. Mike Leavitt, Utah's Republican Governor, has acknowledged that the report is incomplete, but when asked at a press conference last week about the trio's alleged wrongdoing he insisted: "They had to hide it because I didn't see it and I don't know at this point of anyone else who did."

But the scope of the scrutiny of Salt Lake City officials is expanding by the day, and both Governor Leavitt and the city's Democratic Mayor, Deedee Corradini, are among those struggling to prevent their own reputations being tarnished.

The report says Mr Welch and Mr Johnson were acting alone. "But it's going to be hard to say that no one had any idea what was going on," Stephen Pace, a leading critic of the Utah Games, said. Since the scandal broke in November, six IOC members have been forced to resign, three have done so of their own accord, three remain under investigation and one has died.



Welch: faces charge of deceiving members

As public attention switches back to Salt Lake City from the Olympic headquarters in Lausanne, Utah is scrambling to save the Games it fought for over a generation.

The remaining members of the organising committee are counting on Juan Antonio Samaranch, the beleaguered IOC President, to help them to raise more than $250 million still needed to fund the Games, which more than 70 per cent of Utah voters do not want to pay for out of taxes.

The organising committee is also looking for a new leader since the resignation of its last one, Frank Joklik. The leading candidate is Mike Romney, a venture capitalist.

Should he get the job, Mr Romney will find himself in charge of a demoralised team. Despite the findings of the organising committee's internal inquiry, Mr Welch has said other committee members did know about the cash, gifts and refundable first-class air tickets given to IOC members during the bidding process.

His refusal to speak to the committee's own investigators has left former colleagues fearful that he may be holding back information with which to protect himself should the FBI select him as a target.

In addition to Mr Welch and Mr Johnson, yesterday's report named Jean-Claude Ganga of the Congo, Charles Mukora of Kenya and nearly a dozen others, who it said received unexplained payments of from $10,000 to $30,000. Robert Garff, the Salt Lake committee's chairman, admitted at a press conference that "many of the large disbursements lacked complete documentation".

VAN McNAMEE / REUTERS



President Clinton prepares to board his helicopter for Washington yesterday as claims began to circulate about a secret voice recording system in the Oval Office

Monica tape claim raises Nixon spectre

FROM DAMIAN WHITWORTH IN WASHINGTON

THE Senate began its final deliberations in the impeachment trial last night amid extraordinary echoes of the Watergate scandal as Republican leaders said that they had been told President Clinton might have an Oval Office taping system similar to that which brought down Richard Nixon.

Trent Lott, the Senate Majority Leader, said that he had passed on the unsubstantiated information to Mr Clinton's nemesis, the independent prosecutor Kenneth Starr. "All I have done is make available information sent to me," said Mr Lott.

The White House denied such a recording system existed, but the idea that Mr Clinton's conversations with Monica Lewinsky could have been captured on tape electrified Washington.

The news came as one of Mr Clinton's most faithful servants was further mired in controversy. What Sidney Blumenthal, the White House aide, said about Ms Lewinsky to Christopher Hitchens, a British journalist, over lunch may become the focus of a new investigation amid allegations that he was part of a presidential campaign to intimidate the former White House trainee and that he is guilty of perjury.

An affidavit by Mr Hitchens's wife, Carol Blue, who was also at the lunch, confirms her husband's claim that Mr Blumenthal described Ms Lewinsky as "a stalker".

Mr Blumenthal said in his deposition under oath last week that Mr Clinton had told him, when the scandal broke, that Ms Lewinsky was a stalker and he had rejected her demands for sex. Mr Blumenthal testified: "I didn't mention it to my friends ... I certainly never mentioned it to any reporter." In a statement this week, however, he said that he talked about the Lewinsky affair to friends and family. Mr Hitchens is an old friend of Mr Blumenthal.

Meanwhile, it was clear that 67 senators will not vote to convict Mr Clinton and remove him from office, but it was uncertain whether he would be censured. Republicans who believe such a motion is too weak plan to throw procedural hurdles in its way.

Remains of singer may be exhumed

Nashville: The medical examiner here said that he will consider exhuming the body of Tammy Wynette for a post-mortem examination — almost a year after her doctor declared she died of a blood clot. The country music star, 55, was found dead at her home by her husband, George Richey. Wynette's daughters, concerned about medications she may have been taking, made the request. *(Reuters)*

Stamp stubs out artist's bad habit

FROM DAMIAN WHITWORTH IN WASHINGTON

A CHAIN smoker in life, Jackson Pollock is being helped to give up the habit after death by the United States Postal Service.

A new 33-cent stamp uses an artist's impression of a 1949 photograph that appeared in *Life* magazine depicting the denim-clad artist crouched over a canvas puffing away.

But on the stamp, unveiled this week to commemorate the New York artist's contribution to Abstract Expressionism, the cigarette has become the latest victim of an anti-smoking drive. Don Smeraldi, a Postal Service spokesman, tried to explain. "We are not honouring a smoker who happened to be an artist; we're honouring a very good artist who happened to be a smoker," he said.

But others are less happy. Helen Harrison, of the Pollock-Krasner Study Centre said that it was a distortion. "It's unfortunate that bad-boy Jackson can't get away with it."

Professor David Lubin, an expert on "cultural symbolism", said that it was an example of the Government trying to sanitise American history. "It has taken the cigarette out of the photograph because it think it's in the public's best interest, but that is an ethically shaky position to take. Should we expunge cigarette smokers as role models?"

The photograph was taken by Martha Holmes for a *Life* magazine cover, and *Life* licensed it to the Government for use as a reference.

Pollock, who died in 1956, is only the second American artist to be depicted on one of the country's stamps. The first was Norman Rockwell.



Pollock: known to be heavy smoker of cigarettes

Queen Noor, the widow of King Hussein, receives condolences from one of thousands of mourners at Raghadan Palace in Amman yesterday

New King courts Iraq

Pledge to improve bilateral ties is considered shrewd move, writes Christopher Walker in Amman

IRAQ announced yesterday that Jordan's untried new ruler, King Abdullah II, is seeking to strengthen ties with Baghdad, sending waves of apprehension through the main Western embassies in Amman, which has become the focal point for opposition to President Saddam Hussein.

In the three weeks since King Hussein switched the succession and appointed the unknown Prince Abdullah, 37, as heir apparent in place of his 51-year-old brother, Hassan — an outspoken critic of the Iraqi regime — America has been striving to ensure that the new ruler would keep his father's strong tilt against Baghdad, including his willingness to permit anti-Saddam groups to operate from Jordan.

Diplomatic sources said this was one of the points emphasised when Madeleine Albright, the US Secretary of State, altered her Middle East itinerary and stopped in Amman to speak privately to Abdullah soon after he was named Crown Prince.

In a surprise development, INA, the official Iraqi news agency, yesterday quoted the new monarch as having told Taha Mohiddin Maruf, the Iraqi Vice-President, at Monday's funeral that Jordan "wanted to pursue bilateral relations and examine ways of developing them in the interest of two brotherly peoples".

Opposition groups in Jordan have been campaigning for an improvement in Jordanian-Iraqi ties. Despite the late King's switch back to a pro-Western, anti-Iraqi stance after the 1990-91 Gulf crisis, sympathy and even affection for Saddam among ordinary Jordanians remains high.

While the West tried last night to assess the significance of the pledge to Baghdad, a senior Arab diplomat said: "For a new King trying to shore up support at home at a time of severe economic hardship, voicing pro-Iraqi sentiments is a very shrewd move."

Before the Gulf crisis, when crippling United Nations sanctions were imposed on Iraq after it invaded Kuwait, Baghdad was one of Jordan's main trading partners.

In the absence of strong representation in Jordan's rubber stamp, 80-member parliament, the main focus for Jordan's opposition groups is the Amman-based Committee for the Lifting of the Embargo on Iraq, which has become a vehicle for drafting a blueprint for political reform due soon to be presented to the new monarch.

A spokeswoman for the group, Toujan Faisal, Jordan's first and only woman MP until she lost her seat in 1997, has a colour photograph of herself standing next to Saddam in one of his sumptuous Baghdad palaces displayed prominently in her salon.

"I put it there as a message to all Jordanian politicians and officials who may visit me here to let them know that I and tens of thousands of Jordanians like me approve of Saddam and support him against attacks by the West," said Mrs Faisal who describes herself as an independent liberal. Even before the death of King Hussein, a gradual thaw in relations between Jordan and Iraq was under way after two crises, one in 1995 and the other last year.

Alongside the diplomatic manoeuvring, Jordan continued its national mourning for its late leader of 47 years yesterday with thousands of ordinary people flocking to offer their condolences to the Royal Family. The men went to one royal palace to greet King Abdullah and women to a separate one where they offered condolences to Queen Noor, the late King's American-born fourth wife, his British-born second wife Princess Muna, the mother of the new King, and his daughters and sisters.

☐ **Ramat Gan:** Binyamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, hinted last night that his Government could reach a peace agreement with Lebanon and Syria by the end of this year. *(AFP)*

Women wait to offer their condolences to the Queen

Iranian head of security resigns

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN TEHRAN

IRANIANS yesterday cautiously celebrated a victory for President Khatami when the head of the country's hardline intelligence ministry resigned a month after admitting rogue agents were responsible for the murders of several dissident intellectuals and writers.

The departure of Dorri Najafabadi was seen as a sign that the moderate Mr Khatami was gaining ground in his battle to enforce the rule of law. Rarely, if ever, have the authorities here accepted responsibility for mistakes.

"The mere fact that a head of a ministry has resigned in this way is a good sign," said Ibrahim Yazdi, the leader of an illegal but tolerated opposition party. "But we still want a public trial of those arrested and their names and positions should be announced."

The spate of grisly kidnappings and killings that terrorised Iran's intellectual community was seen as an attempt by hardliners to undermine support for Mr Khatami, a cleric who saw off the old guard's candidate in a presidential election nearly two years ago.

Despite Mr Khatami's huge popular mandate, the hardliners maintain an iron grip on the so-called "power ministries" including that of intelligence, the pervasive apparatus that took over from the Shah's feared Savak.

However, the killings, like several other attempts to undermine Mr Khatami, backfired. They provoked a huge popular outcry, including street demonstrations. The country's outspoken press immediately pointed the finger at the intelligence ministry.

Then on January 5 came the announcement from the ministry itself that "renegade, irresponsible and misguided colleagues" were responsible for the murders and had been arrested. An agent confessed that his group was responsible for the deaths of 60 dissidents at home and abroad.

The killings began last November when Dariush Farouhar, the leader of a small opposition party, and his wife, Parvaneh, were stabbed to death in their home.

Next the bodies of two writers, Mohammed Mokhtari and Mohammed Pouyandeh, were found strangled by the side of the road.

WORLD IN BRIEF

Anwar's accuser retracts testimony

Kuala Lumpur: Another of Anwar Ibrahim's accusers renounced his evidence in a sworn statement yesterday and disappeared from view after apparently escaping from police custody (David Watts writes). Encik Mior, 32 a dress designer for Mr Anwar's wife, Azizah, said in the statement that he had been forced by police to say he had been sodomised by Mr Anwar, the former Malaysian Deputy Prime Minister.

He added that he had been stripped naked, tortured and made to simulate sex acts while in police custody for the past four months. Mr Mior is the third of Mr Anwar's alleged sodomy victims to renounce his evidence to the police. A fourth has made differing allegations and the whereabouts of a fifth is unknown.

Three girls die in leap

Moscow: Three girls aged 11, 12 and 14 threw themselves off the eighth floor of their block of flats here in a joint suicide, Russian television reported. Two of them, Tanya and Masha, were killed immediately; the third, Alyona, died in hospital. The close friends left a letter asking to be buried in the same coffin. Media reports said that police had ruled out drugs or unhappy love affairs and suspected involvement with a sect. The Jehovah's Witnesses had reportedly approached one of the girls. *(AFP)*

Tomb collapse kills four

Shanghai: A collapsed mud wall inside a 2,100-year-old imperial tomb in northern China's Shaanxi province has buried alive an archaeologist and three assistants, the *Shanghai Star* reported. The four were working 26ft underground on Friday when the wall fell at the site, north of Xian. The newspaper added that work began two years ago at the Han Dynasty tomb, which contains the remains of more than 100 government officials and is the largest of its kind yet discovered in China. *(AFP)*

Rebels join state outfit



Phnom Penh: The last fighters from Cambodia's Khmer Rouge guerrilla group have formally joined the national army, swapping Mao-style hats and drab green fatigues for smart new uniforms (Caroline Gluck writes). At a ceremony at the former Khmer Rouge stronghold of Anlong Veng, General Tea Banh, above left, the co-Defence Minister, called it a symbolic day. "This is the last of the defections, and it is a great contribution to ending more than two decades of chronic war," he said.

Lovers in death hug

Singapore: A lovers' quarrel ended when a man poured flammable liquid over his girlfriend, set her alight and then hugged her — setting himself ablaze too. Toh Chiam Hoe, 34, died 12 hours later while Kua Sooi Lean, 29, whose mother and sister saw the attack from a taxi near by, remained in a critical condition with burns over 80 per cent of her body. *(AP)*

In death as in life — a minimum of fuss

A quiet exit like Iris Murdoch's is the trend, says Vanora Bennett

It was typical of the modest Iris Murdoch that on her death she didn't want any fuss. No grand funeral or aggrandising memorial service. A philosopher, an intellectual, an acclaimed novelist, she had no doubt considered the manner of her passing carefully and decided that she would like to go quietly.

Of course, it would amuse Dame Iris, who died on Monday, that in choosing to depart with minimal attention, she was at the vanguard of a modern movement. If death can be minimalist — and what could be more so? — then the taste for dying without the traditional displays of pomp, piety and religious respect is gaining currency.

The playwright Robert Bolt, who died in 1995, was buried at the bottom of the garden of the 11th-century house he shared with his actress wife Sarah Miles. "He didn't want to be embalmed, wanted to be buried in the garden and wanted us all to drink champagne," she recalled afterwards.

Nicholas Albery, the editor of *The Natural Death Handbook*, has specified in his will that he wants to be buried on a piece of farmland that he and his wife were given as a wedding present. There will be no coffin; he wishes to be wrapped in a sheet and buried beneath a newly planted apple tree.

The Natural Death Centre has information on woodland burial sites — about 85 exist, run by farmers and local authorities, where graves costing between £300 and £800 are marked only with a tree or a simple wooden plaque — burials at sea (about 20 take place every year) and garden burials. Those prepared to meet their maker without an oak casket can choose between cardboard and papier-mâché coffins, costing between £50 and £170, woven willow alternatives (£350) or woollen burial shrouds (£124).

Even some Church of England clergymen are exploring the unconventional. The diocesan synod of Ely, in Cambridgeshire, last year approved a plan to set up its own 40-acre woodland burial site. The Rev Peter Owen Jones, one of the scheme's supporters, says: "We want to move away from the Victorian melodrama of burial."



PETER NICHOLLS

Iris Murdoch, who died on Monday after a long battle with Alzheimer's, and her husband John Bayley

Few legal barriers exist; no planning permission is needed for garden burials, nor advance sanction from environmental health officers. There is no blueprint for such an informal burial; relatives make their own arrangements.

But, the Centre adds, problems can arise. The Ministry of Agriculture has produced a minefield of guidelines to discourage burial at sea. A garden burial can "cause dissension if not all members of the family are in favour, or reduce the property's value". And it is vital to remember that funerals are as much for the living as for the dead. Offering survivors the emotional comfort of a parting that they can remember without discomfort — rather than veering too far into the trendy — is a main function of a funeral.

"It should be a meaningful and fitting way to pay tribute to a life ended, so that afterwards the nearest and dearest can look back and feel they said farewell to their loved one in a sensitive and dignified way," says Dominic Maguire, the president of the National Association of Funeral Directors.

For Thomas Lynch, an undertaker and the author of a study on death, worries about form, money and display are simply displacement activities to hide from grief: "We believe we can control our feelings by laughing at undertakers — whistling past the graveyard — and paying attention to the numbers, but that's not what it's about. We have to face the fact that if you love, you grieve."

I stand, she delivers

The other half of JOANNA COLES

Friday: 2.30am. Staggering under the weight of two kitbags and a backpack stuffed with tiny outfits, we arrive at St Luke's-Roosevelt hospital to have a baby. We take the lift to the 12th floor, where we are ushered into a tiny "observation" cubicle with a gurney bed, sink, bin and chair. A nurse straps monitors to Joanna to measure her contractions and the foetal heartbeat, then leaves us. The contractions are coming fast and hard and Joanna is complaining of acute back pain.

"I'm going to throw up again!" she gasps. I look around for a receptacle. I help her to the sink, patting her heaving shoulders as she hugs the cold porcelain and retches violently.

"Why you throw up in the sink?" demands the nurse crossly from the doorway.

"Where else were we supposed to do it?" I protest.

"The bin," she says with a scowl.

We are not here to argue about where to vomit.

Joanna has jettisoned all thoughts of using the birthing centre and having a "natural" drug-free labour. She pleads for an epidural as we wait for our obstetrician to drive in from the suburbs. She looks away as the grumpy nurse stretches a tourniquet around her arm and inserts an IV needle into a bulging vein. The needle pops out. The nurse tries again. And again. Each time the needle slips out, leaving a crimson blotch of blood on the white linen.

"Your veins — no good," the nurse complains and wanders off. She returns with a green-smocked Russian, whom I overhear scolding her for using the wrong needles. He manages first time.

Friday: 5am. In the delivery room. An elegant Chinese anaesthetist inserts a catheter into Joanna's spine and feeds in liquid numbness. Joanna almost weeps with gratitude as the pain seeps away. She is suffering from "back labour", with the baby's head in a posterior position. The doctor decides to go in with an instrument like a flattened crochet hook "to break the waters". Luckily, Joanna cannot see it.

Now she is rigged up to a web of technological tendrils: wires to the monitors and tubes to a drip that dispenses a labour-inducing drug and saline to keep her blood pressure up. One by one we are conceding to all the things we were urged to resist in birthing class, all the gadgetry and potions of a "medicated" birth.

Friday: 1.30pm. Joanna has been pushing for two hours while I count each push, feeding her crushed ice in between, murmuring reassurances. But I get things slightly wrong. I grip her hand too hard. My lower-back massage eludes the hot spot. I am devoid of the power to appease. I am a man in the delivery room. I revert to the hunter-gatherer default and go off foraging for sustenance. When I return, bearing Starbucks coffee, I find there has been progress.

"You're so close," says the doctor. "Can you see the baby's head?" she asks me. And there is the top of our baby's head, covered in a fuzz of oily blond hair.

"It's time for an internal baby heart monitor," she adds. From her quiver of medieval torture tools she produces an instrument shaped like a long knitting needle; she intends to screw its small metal tip into the baby's head. We meekly agree. Her first attempt fails, however; puzzled, she withdraws the applicator tube. "They've redesigned it," she complains mildly, spreading out the instructions on the foot of the bed.

"Pull tab (a), twist (b) and remove," reads Deborah, the labour nurse. "The tab goes back in *after* you've turned, like this," I offer, as we huddle around the applicator as though assembling Ikea furniture. Joanna groans at the onset of another contraction; I remember that we are screwing a cranial spike into a baby.

3.15pm. Joanna's strength is waning. Between contractions she uses an oxygen mask. I look out of the window. Outside it is a busy New York Friday afternoon. Below is a dotted line of yellow cabs, slow-moving termites jostling for position. On the Hudson I can see the grey hulk of the *USS Intrepid*, the aircraft carrier, berthed there. The panorama unfolds across the river to the New Jersey shore, and south through a thicket of mid-town high rises to the twin towers of the World Trade Centre. Helicopters throb across at window height on their way to the Chelsea heliport — the world into which we are trying to entice this baby to make its reluctant debut.

I turn back. The atmosphere has changed. I follow the doctor's anxious eyes to the blinking monitors and the graphs they spew. The baby's heart rate is beginning to falter between contractions. With a magician's flourish, the doctor whips the green cloth off the trolley at her side to reveal an array of suctioning equipment. Deborah pushes a red button on the wall; suddenly the room is full of people in smocks and shower caps.

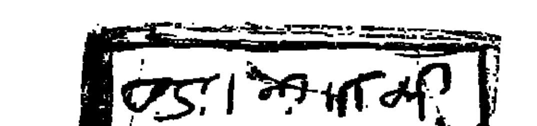
The doctor has the vacuum cap leeched on to the sandy dome of the baby's head and on the next contraction she really heaves, like an old-fashioned dentist pulling at a deep-rooted molar. But, unbelievably, the head remains lodged. All eyes swivel back to the monitors, where the vital signs blink wildly like Wall Street stock prices on a volatile trading day. "Episiotomy," she says. It is a bald statement of fact, not a subject for discussion. She snatches up a pair of scissors. The blades scintillate in the beam of the lowered spotlight. I look away. But above the beeping of the monitors and the roar of the air-conditioning, I hear two loud snips. I look back to see the doctor tossing the scissors on to the tray, and at the next contraction she takes up her grip on the handle of the vacuum, assuming a tug-of-war stance with her shoulders.

I am appalled by the violence being directed towards this unborn baby, terrified that its little neck will simply snap with the force of it all. I am about to plead for a "C" section myself when suddenly the doctor staggers back and the baby shoots out — head, arms, torso, legs — like a long, bloody link of sausages, and immediately the room is filled with the instantly recognisable cry of the newborn.

"It's a boy," says the doctor and lifts the baby, still tethered like a tiny moonwalker by his umbilical cord.

PETER GODWIN





The next big bang: explosive the size of salt grains

The creation of N_5, an atomic freak of nature, has stunned the world of chemistry. **Nicholas Booth** reports



We have lift off: the newly-created substance N_5, part an initiative by the US Air Force to look into highly energetic materials, could be used for more efficient rocket fuel

There are two sorts of explosion in chemistry — predictable ones and those that are entirely unexpected. To hear Karl Christe describe the events of one day last November, the explosion that destroyed part of his apparatus came as no surprise. "We knew what we were looking for," he says with a studied nonchalance. "We knew it would be very unstable and spectacular."

The "it" in question has the normally staid world of inorganic chemistry agog. For Dr Christe's research team, working for the US Air Force, has formed an atomic freak of nature and one of the most virulently explosive substances ever created.

Known as "Nitrogen 5" (N_5), many chemists doubted this form of polynitrogen could ever exist, let alone be created in a laboratory. And yet when it was synthesised in the form of a few grains of salt, the effects were quite spectacular.

"I was quite relieved when it blew up," Dr Christe says. "If you expect something to be that energetic, you're going to have to deliver." Although he is at pains to point out that his work is purely fundamental research, it does promise hitherto unexpected advances in rocket propellants and explosives.

Dr Christe was the leader of a team of 15 chemists, who created this man-made form of nitrogen. Normally regarded as one of the more staid and boring of elements, nitrogen is the invisible gas that forms four fifths of our atmosphere. Gaseous nitrogen comprises two atoms joined together as N_2, which is stable and unreactive. It was first isolated in 1772 by, among others, the British scientist Henry Cavendish. Yet its stability makes it useful as a potential explosive: when some of its electrons are stripped, the positively charged fragments (ions) will go to any lengths, even violent ones, to regain stability. A second form of nitrogen was found in the 1890s in the form of azides or N_3, which temporarily binds three nitrogen atoms together.

Henry Cavendish

Azides are so unstable that they usually have to be kept in a crystalline form. The lattice structure imprisons each azide so that it cannot come into contact with its neighbour — an explosion results if contact occurs.

A common form is the sodium azide that is found inside the airbags of cars. It is used to generate nitrogen rapidly. When a car undergoes a severe impact, the nitrogen ions come into contact and release the gas remarkably quickly.

The third form created by Dr Christe is more unstable still. N_5 consists of five nitrogen atoms bonded in a V-shape. Essentially, his team have pulled a rabbit out of a hat: binding more than three nitrogen atoms together was believed to be impossible. When Dr Christe presented his findings to the American Chemical Society last month, the audience were stunned and not because of the explosion.

Dr Christe's work is part of an initiative by the US Air Force to look into highly energetic materials, which could be used for making more efficient rocket fuel. His work is carried out at the Edwards Air Force Base, a vast dry lake in California's Mojave Desert, most familiar as the landing site for the space shuttle and famous as the home of the "right stuff" test pilots.

Although spectacular, all rocket launches are frustrating to their designers. Even the most powerful propellants have a performance ceiling that limits their efficiency. For every ton of equipment hoisted aloft — be it scientific equipment into orbit or a warhead beyond enemy lines — five tons of fuel are needed. This ratio is immutable with conventional rocket chemistry and Dr Christe's team in the Edwards Propulsion Directorate may have found a way around it.

It took four months to synthesise a stable form of the molecular fragment by combining gaseous nitrogen with a negatively charged mixture of arsenic and fluorine. The result was a few grains of a solid compound that, says Dr Christe, looks like table salt. "Except that if you put it in a salt cellar you'd soon know about it," he adds.

Its explosiveness comes from the way in which the positively charged molecular fragment latches on to its nearby brethren. Natural forms of nitrogen have attained the chemical equivalent of Zen, the lowest energy state, where it remains unreactive and stable. What Dr Christe has done is to break a barrier in energy terms. He uses the analogy of a river. "Water doesn't run uphill," he says. "You can make it go up a hill, but you have to put some energy in. Chemically speaking, we have kicked this form of nitrogen up the hill."

Dr Christe is particularly proud that they got it right first time. The research chemistry of today no longer uses just test tubes and blind faith, but rather expensive and complex equipment that takes up whole laboratories. Dr Christe's work has to be carried out in a vacuum, with tubes fashioned from stainless steel and Teflon, and complicated spectrometers which look for the tell-tale signs of unusual molecules on an infinitesimal scale.

Very little was left to chance. The use of supercomputers means that the innumerable permutations of chemical combinations can be predicted onscreen. "We can predict whether the material is stable and if it exists, minimise the processes needed to create it," he says.

Yet actually to create new molecular fragments is more an art than an exact science. The results still lie with "intuition and instinct", for others have failed to create any new forms of nitrogen. Dr Christe has scored some notable successes. In 1986 he succeeded in separating pure fluorine from a compound by chemical means rather than using vast amounts of energy. "I've had a pretty good batting average," Dr Christe adds.

Another surprise is that they have been able to create N_5 on a microscopic scale and not just as a handful of molecules. In November they produced about 100 milligrams, but now they could create half a gram. Because of its instability, they have to keep it cold and pack it within dry ice at a temperature of -80C. Even so, they are taking no chances: the ampoules, which contain the new form of nitrogen, are made of Teflon.

In the annals of inorganic chemistry, Dr Christe has produced a wonder stuff that some believe may be too unstable to use. But if it could be kept stable and manufactured it would be an ideal fuel for the upper stages of rockets and missiles.

He refuses to be drawn, merely saying he has no idea what it might lead to. "Scientifically, it is very spectacular," he says. "But if you want sure bets, go to Las Vegas. I can't predict what will come out of this work."

You don't have to be a rocket scientist to realise that the field of polynitrogen chemistry may surprise us yet.

☐ Heart disease ☐ Solar breakthrough ☐ Pecking order

A bug in the heart

SCIENCE BRIEFING

Nigel Hawkes

THE evidence linking heart disease to a common bug is growing. The idea is appealing because it would help to clarify the causes of a disease too often blamed on its victims' behaviour.

No doubt diet, smoking, obesity, genetic predisposition and lack of exercise have an influence, but they do not explain the third or so of victims who have no such risk factors.

The latest piece of evidence, published in last week's *Journal of the American Medical Association*, drew on just such a group: 3,315 British patients who had had a heart attack, despite having no known risk factors. NHS medical records enabled any drugs they had been prescribed to be compared with those given to a control group of 13,139 patients who were matched in other respects but had not suffered a heart attack.

One difference emerged, according to Dr Herschel Jick of Boston University. Those who had heart attacks were much less likely to have been treated within the previous three years with two types of antibiotics — tetracyclines or quinolones. Other antibiotics — penicillins, macrolides, sulphonamides and cephalosporins — showed no such effect.

The striking thing is that this points to *Chlamydia pneumoniae*, a bacterium that has already been fingered in the search for an infectious cause of heart disease. The bug attacks the lungs and can cause pneumonia, although most people who carry it suffer no apparent ill-effects. *Chlamydia* is sensitive to tetracyclines and quinolones, less so to other antibiotics. So the suggestion is that taking these antibiotics for other reasons can kill off the *Chlamydia* infection and protect against heart disease. The findings are consistent with results published 18 months ago by Dr Sandeep Gupta, of St George's Hospital Medical School in London. He found that in heart attack survivors, the chances of having another attack depended on the number of *Chlamydia* antibodies found in their systems. Those with the highest levels — indicating infection with the bug — had four times the chances of repeat heart attacks than those with the lowest. If they had been given antibiotics, however, the risk went down.

So how much more evidence is needed before heart attack survivors, at least, are routinely given a course of antibiotics? Doctors who have spent the past 20 years urging heart patients to heal themselves seem surprisingly reluctant to take back the responsibility. There are sound reasons for this: the evidence falls some way short of proof, and the routine consumption of antiobiotics by millions of people risks the development of drug resistance. The American Heart Association responded to the study by saying it is "much too early to consider prescribing antibiotics to people at risk for heart attack". But individuals may well disagree.

A new trial to be launched next month in the United States could help. The plan is to recruit 4,000 people at 26 medical centres, assign them at random to one antibiotic or placebo tablet a week, then follow them for heart symptoms for three years. Dr Ward Kennedy, of the University of Washington in Seattle, believes that the chance of antibiotic-resistant bacteria emerging is small. "We think it's worth the risk," he says, "because the question is so important."

New way to harness the Sun



SOLAR cells are an attractive source of electricity, but low efficiency is still a drawback. At best, the cells can convert to electricity only about a quarter of the sunlight falling on them.

Now an accidental discovery by Harvard University physicists could help to improve that.

Tsing-Hua Her, Eric Mazur and Claudia Wu were trying to find new ways of etching circuit patterns on silicon, using a laser and various gases inside a chamber. They found instead that their process turned the surface of the silicon into a forest of perfect spikes, standing up from the surface of the chip.

This was useless for electronic chips, but ideal for solar cells, which are also made of silicon. Light falling on the spikes was reflected to and fro in a random fashion, and much more was absorbed. Solar cells made from the spiky silicon generate about 60 per cent more electricity than flat ones; at least for certain wavelengths of light, *Discover* reports.

How the spikes form remains a bit of a mystery, but the team suspects that there is a chemical reaction between the layers of silicon heated by the laser and chlorine or fluorine gas.

At present the process is slow and expensive, but better methods of production are being sought.

Power of the pecking order



SOME behaviour, such as yawning, seems to be catching. Once one person starts, everybody else joins in. Two ecologists from Rutgers University in New York have found that this also applies to the common tern. Among colonies of the birds in a salt marsh in Manahawkin Bay in New Jersey, the amount of preening that goes on depends on the number of birds present. When more than two or three are gathered together, preening increases, report Brian Palestis and Joanna Burger in *Animal Behaviour*. One bird starts and the rest follow, like teenage girls perfecting their lipstick at a disco.

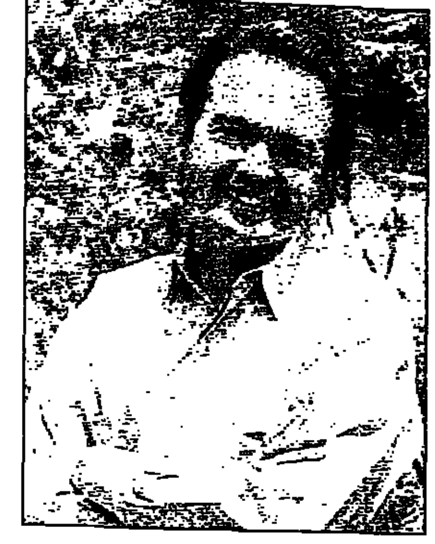
On one occasion, five terns were sitting quietly until one started preening. Within two minutes, four of them were at it, and the odd one out was the only bird looking in the other direction. The date, time of day or the weather could not explain this pattern.

Preening serves various purposes, including ridding the birds of parasites. But explaining why it should be socially triggered is tricky.

Perhaps, the two ecologists wonder, it is because living in colonies increases the rate of infestation by parasites, so that increased preening among social birds is needed to control them. But it could also have something to do with the pecking order, subsidiary birds taking their cue from those at the top.

♂ What *men* want from women ♀

Surprise him with a smile



Couples need to learn new skills, says **John Gray**, the author of *Men are from Venus, Women are from Mars*



SUPERSTOCK / FRANK McHUGH

Many of the men of previous generations did not understand the importance of monogamy and making a woman feel special

The dynamics of the relationships between men and women have changed more in the past 35 years of this millennium than the 965 years that preceded it. The emergence of the two-career family, coupled with the advent of the birth control pill, are the two most apparent factors for this rapid change.

For centuries, men and women existed in different spheres. Men assumed the role of provider and protector, working for the most part out of the home. Husbands felt that wives did not expect them to be sensitive; they were the breadwinners, and skills in this area brought them the appreciation that all men so enjoy. Adults who are 35 or older remember that when their fathers returned from work, they were not to be disturbed.

For women, it was the reverse: her domain was home and hearth. Traditionally, her problems, and those of the children, took a back seat to his more worldly concerns. Women quickly learnt that there was a right place and right time to talk to him.

The women of today are daughters of mothers who could not teach them how to share their feelings in a way that did not make men defensive, or how to seek support so that a man would respond positively. Most women of previous generations did not understand how to nurture a man without mothering him, or how to accommodate his wishes without sacrificing their own. How could that generation have prepared the women of today for a world that few of us imagined 30 or more years ago? These mothers could not teach their daughters how to be both feminine and powerful at work and at home.

In a similar fashion, men today have no role models for leading and directing the family in a way that respects and includes their partners' points of view. Fathers could not teach their sons how to communicate with a woman without giving in or arguing. They found it difficult to remain strong while providing their partners with emotional support.

Many of the men of previous generations did not understand the importance of monogamy and making a woman feel special. Our fathers did not understand how truly to give the empathy and sympathy required by women. They did not know how to do the little things that fulfil a woman. Simply put, our parents couldn't teach us the advanced communication skills necessary to make relationships thrive in a world where men and women have been put on an equal basis. These changing times, when both spouses are out pursuing a profession or simply a better standard of living, demand that we open our hearts and minds to the process of change — both at home and at work.

Ultimately, this process will make the world a better place. I very much believe that the reason my book *Men are from Mars, Women are from Venus* has become such a success is because of this very simple message: men and women speak different languages and, with better communication skills, they can maintain a happier and more fulfilling relationship. Minus these skills, married couples too often find that their communication leads to resentment: and when resentment moves in, romance moves out. Of the approximately 1,000 letters that I receive each month, many express amazement that the simple communication techniques featured in my books have turned their relationships around. Here I will focus on just two such techniques, one for her and one for him.

For her: learn the right way in which to enlist your loved one's support. Women find themselves in a modern world with many demands that bring out their "male" sides. They spend the day communicating with men without being able to express their feelings in a free and open fashion. Now more than ever it is important for women to have the opportunity to reconnect with their feminine sides when they are at home. If a woman is not afforded this need, this suppression will become a source of growing frustration. For a woman to gain her partner's understanding about this, she should simply say: "I just need to talk about my feelings in order to feel better. You don't have to say anything or do anything."

For him: learn how to listen when your partner is upset without getting upset yourself. This is an important skill that allows a man to give a woman what she needs most: emotional support. She wants to have her feelings heard, not fixed. This is not as easy for him to accomplish as a woman might suspect. Unfortunately, when a man hears a problem, he morphs into a Mr Fix-it. Instead, he must suppress his instinct to rush in with a solution. His Mr Fix-It tendencies are heard by her as an attempt to invalidate her point of view, and cause her frustration level to escalate.

Men instinctively want a woman with a smile. When that smile is not forthcoming, most men see it as either their fault or their duty to replace it. Women, just like their male counterparts, can come home from the workplace with a variety of frustrations. Men must remember that what she is saying is not meant directly to criticise you. Those frustrations often have nothing to with their mates. At times like this, it is vital for a man to be skilled in the art of listening so that he can give her what she wants most: an ear to hear her.

When a woman is upset, timing is essential in offering solutions. When a woman feels secure enough to share her feelings with the man she loves, and he can listen without being wounded, their relationship is far better prepared to survive and thrive in these changing times.

● *John Gray's new book,* How to Get What You Want and Want What You Have, *will be published by Vermilion on March 11, £9.99*

● *John Gray will give a lecture,* Mars and Venus in London, *at the Peacock Theatre, Kingsway, London WC2 at 7.30pm on March 26. Tel 08700 715 715 for details*

Only a super bottom will do

The girl of my dreams has her own agenda, says **Tim Southwell**

Trying to identify what men want from women is tantamount to sacrilege round my way. If I had suggested such an idea to my grandad he would have winced violently, taken me to a quiet room and informed me of one of life's golden rules: "Never make any demands on the ladies, young scamp. They can see straight through us. Just keep your mouth shut, stay out of trouble and do as you're told." Which I consider excellent advice.

You see, men don't really like to think about it too much on account of the fact that as we have absolutely no idea what women really want from us, and very little realistic hope of finding out, it seems churlish in the extreme to make specific requests of our own.

It's not that we don't care what women want, it's just that we're so painfully aware of our own shortcomings that it's easier for us to identify the things that make us tick and protect our own boundaries of happiness. Consequently, over the years we have developed several "no go" areas for ourselves which, if crossed, set alarm bells ringing. Comments such as "You're not watching the football round my house", "You should start reading *Men's Health*" and "I just don't think Laurel and Hardy are funny" tend to make a man feel uneasy. We don't want someone interfering with the crucial elements of our character that bring peace in this crazy ever-changing world.

What men *really* want from women is for them to have their own career — there's nothing more sexy than a woman with her own agenda — but also find time to have children, raise them at home, listen to our banal ramblings about work when we get back, put the kids to bed while we watch the football and then slip into something comfortable yet wildly erotic.

See, men want everything there is to be had. We want filthy, unpredictable, passionate sex, coupled with the comfort of a clean, predictable, calm relationship. But we don't want a woman who sits at home waiting for us to validate her existence.

We want women to have their own friends and interests so that we have to compete for their time — so long as we like their friends, and their interests don't lumber us with the type of responsibility that could interfere with our own interests or quest for an easy life.

We want someone who will dress like Grace Kelly at dinner parties, Monica out of *Friends* around the house, and Kathy Lloyd in the bedroom. We want someone who will tell us to shut up when we're harping on aimlessly, yet share a concrete belief in what we do and who we are. And we also want someone who understands that just because we have a favourite All Saint (Melanie Blatt as you ask), it doesn't mean that we love them any less.

I like nothing better after a hard day at the office than coming home, changing baby son Alfie's nappy and talking gibberish to the poor chap for half an hour. But I don't want to do this every night. Some nights I want to go out for dinner with my girlfriend. And some nights I want to go out with my pals, get drunk, talk football — and pretend to have a glad eye for the ladies. And I want my girlfriend to support me all the way.

Men want a soulmate, but not the grasping, suffocating kind that alienates all your friends to the point where she really is your sole mate.

It's great if the woman of your dreams gets on with all your friends, but not so great when she's laughing at all their jokes more than yours. I want my woman to laugh at my jokes and, once she has regained her composure, coolly inform all and sundry that "he should have been on the stage". Even when she's well and truly on the verge of running me through with a bread knife.

"Hark at Lord Muck!" I hear you cry — and yes, you're right. Imagine if we did find women like this. We would become shallow, self-obsessed and tedious. It's only because we don't get all of this, and never really expect it, that we manage to develop into the kind of people who do make an effort to look after the children, think occasionally of bringing flowers home and try to remember to do stuff that will alleviate the enormous weight on our girlfriend's child-rearing, relationship-maintaining, career-bearing shoulders.



Baby talk: Tim and son Alfie

But to summarise, I'd settle for the following, in this order — men want a warm heart, gripping conversation, a knack for inventing useful household appliances and a firm grasp on foreign policy. Not to mention strawberry-blonde hair, a penchant for kinky sex and a bottom that never sags.

Well, you did ask.

● Tim Southwell is the Editor of *Loaded*.

Counting the cost of Monica

The Lewinsky affair leaves victims tarnished but honours even

With just two days to go — *maybe only a* day — until the formal end of the impeachment *trial of President* Clinton, we can already see the shape of the landscape scoured out by *the year-long* deluge of the Lewinsky saga.

An astounding year in Amer*ican politics has left as many* losers as winners. Most of all, there are scores of plain victims, with privacy and family finances now shattered.

At the head of the ragged tribe of winners is Mr Clinton himself. Even if the Senate censures him, and even if the special prosecutor Kenneth Starr then indicts him, we might as well say that Mr Clinton has emerged victorious. The drama produced three climactic moments when it seemed that he had only days left: when the story first broke in January last year; when he admitted an "inappropriate relationship" with Monica Lewinsky on videotape on August 17; and in the run-up to the November 3 elections, when congressional Democrats appeared to be fleeing the sinking ship. He survived them all.

So has his wife. In fact, she has prospered. For now, her closest colleagues content themselves with murmuring "she'll wait for the world to *come to her" after leaving the* White House. But as that date approaches, she may well feel that a *bid* for a New York Senate seat is the most attractive step towards a new future.

Monica herself will probably be all right, we can hope, after this week's videotapes of her testimony. Poised and *low-voiced,* *four* years and a world away from the panicking Beverly *Hills* girl on the Linda Tripp tapes, she chided House Republicans for fishing for "salacious" details. "I wish you wouldn't use that word — you're talking about my relationship," she *said,* even at this late stage in the saga adding to its list of deathless *quotes. Her own voice does* her enough credit to suggest that Andrew Morton's soon-*to-be released account of her* life should not be an embarrassment. Even for Monica, it seems, there may be life after Lewinsky.

On the principle that in politics, any publicity is good publicity, a dozen previously invisible characters perhaps should also be called winners. In the common imagination, Kenneth Starr will be preserved for ever, smiling glassily as he puts out his dustbins, or resting his flask of coffee on his car roof while he hangs up his jacket in the back seat. The *white-haired,* black-suited bulk of Henry Hyde will for ever be stooped over the *Senate lectern, gripping it as if* carrying tablets of stone.

Democrats in Congress are also winners. *The question is* whether they can seize the true prize and regain the House of Representatives in the year 2000 elections. That dream, which still seemed elusive after the mid-term elections, has seemed achievable since Mr Clinton's State of the Union speech last month. Richard Gephardt, leader of the Democratic minority, is surely right to calculate that *he stands* a better chance of becoming Speaker at the head of a new Democratic majority *than he* does of becoming President.

But as far as winners go, that's about it. Mr Starr's zeal, repellent to many, has almost certainly done for the Office of *the Independent Counsel. It is* unlikely to be recreated in its present form after it expires in June. *There is widespread* agreement, as Justice Antonin Scalia famously argued at the office's creation in 1988, that it is "unaccountable and unconstitutional".

The presidency itself has also been undermined. Never mind about the sanctimonious pronouncements that the aura of the Oval Office has been tarnished. More important is the precedent of bringing civil actions against a President while still in office. The Supreme Court's original judgment that Paula Jones's sexual harassment case would not disrupt Mr Clinton's presidency is now indisputably wrong; the potential for future Administrations to be seriously shaken by politically inspired legal cases remains.

The saga may also have hurt Vice-President Al Gore's chances of reaching the White House. True, the main impediment to Mr Gore's hopes *remains himself. His stiffness,* despite all the resources available to him, is one of those mysteries of public life. But the Lewinsky affair has made his task more difficult.

Bronwen Maddox

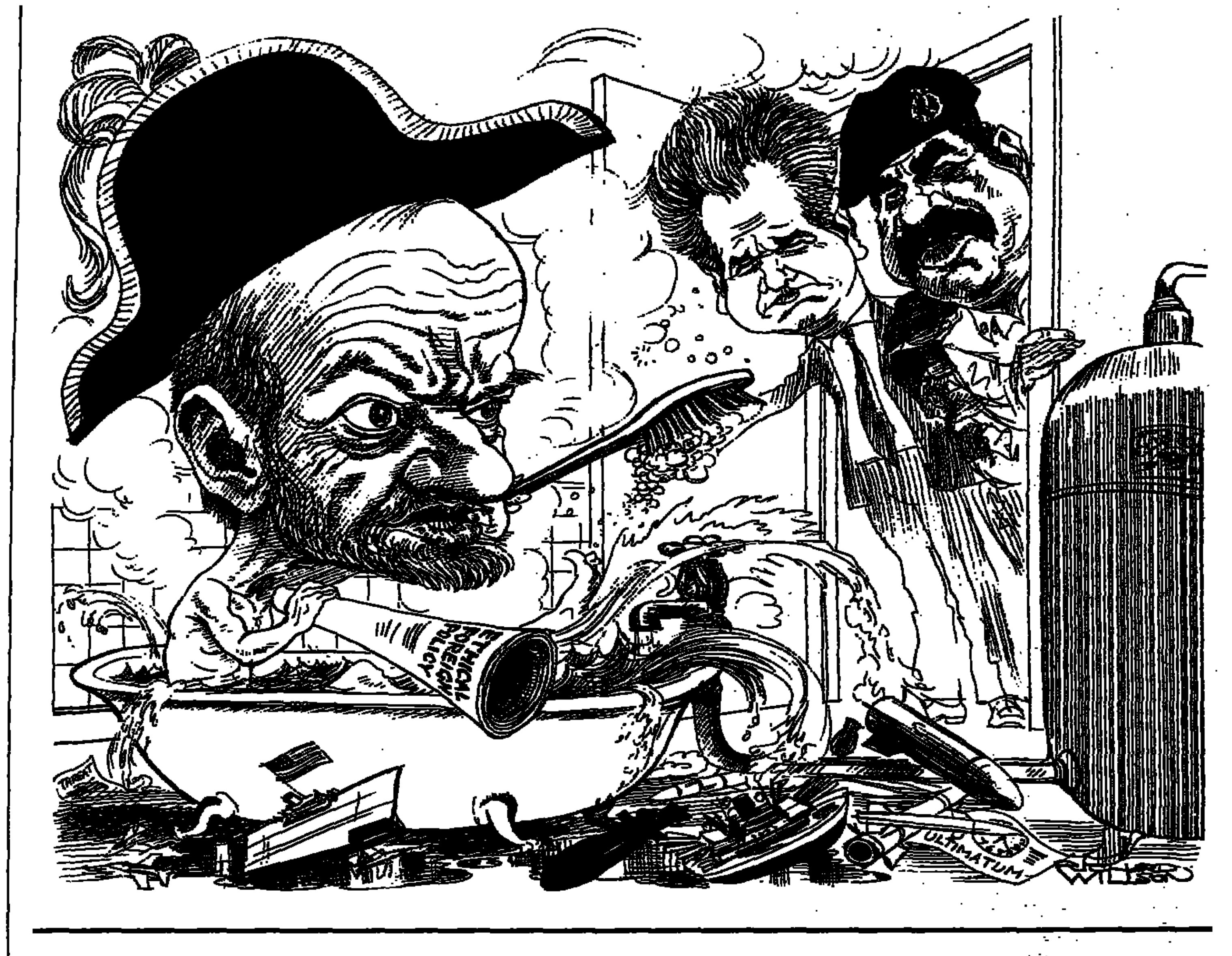
As long as the President was struggling for survival, it was hard for Mr Gore to distance himself. At a time *when he should be* grabbing the stage from Mr Clinton, and making speeches on the economy, on Russia and Jordan, Mr Gore has allowed his boss to continue to hog the limelight. There is a growing Washington murmur that the scandal may also have deterred savvy operators from joining the Gore camp; the lack of enough first-rate, expe*rienced people on the prospec*tive campaign team is conspicuous, and a luxury he cannot afford much longer.

Most sympathy should go to the scores of people dragged into the investigation. They have been forced to run up legal bills of hundreds of thousands of dollars on the chance they might contradict the half-memories of some other bit player.

The investigation by Mr Starr and Congress has cost taxpayers, on estimates, between $40 million and $50 *million.* It would *not* be surprising if it has generated equal lawyers' fees for those *testifying or defending them*selves: the Clintons' legal bills alone may eventually ap*proach $10 million.*

It is that spectacle of waste and misery which leaves such a sour taste. *But* on a purely political scoresheet, there is a chance the saga will have prompted a neat reversal, helping to put Democrats back in control of the House of Representatives — and a Republican in the White House. In that case, each side might call it a draw.

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Fire, film — and forget

No foreign field is so far that the control freaks of new Labour would not have their flag fluttering over it

Who would be a New Labour diplomat? You have a Prime Minister desperate to outdazzle *the Blessed St Margaret. You have a* hyperactive boss trying to outdazzle Gordon Brown. You are told to bear any burden, crash any summit, book any jet, bomb any foe, in the cause of new Labour. You have to take orders from Alastair Campbell and Jonathan Powell. To cap it all you have to "lie abroad for your country" — ethically.

In the circumstances, I would probably do what Peter Penfold did. I would find a minor dictator with a name like Johnny Koroma, call in *Our Boys and topple him in the* name of democracy. I would stage a triumphal parade in the capital, with tribal women crying *hallelujah* to the great white he-elephant of Downing Street. I would declare Tony Blair the prince of freedom. Then I would get the hell out, before the whole thing went pear-shaped.

The Sierra Leone operation went just fine. A victory was won. Mr Blair was declared a saint. The spin-doctors were jubilant and Our (former) Boys and the cameramen *left town. The country was promptly* immersed in a bloodbath, with bandits cutting off arms, legs, ears, *lips and genitalia. But we were out.* In other words, the operation was par for the new liberal interventionism. It was a brilliant example of the laser-guided surgical diplomacy that Robin Cook has long boasted would supplant the "new world disorder" of the Tories: "fire, film and forget" diplomacy.

None of this is of concern to the House of Commons Foreign Affairs Committee. Its report is chiefly worried that somewhere within the glorious edifice of the Foreign Office, *wires were crossed.* Messages had been sent by post not telephone. Calls had been missed. *Even worse, ministers had been* badly briefed. An offence had been committed against the golden Brit*ish art of administration.* The committee chairman, Donald Anderson, repeated the cliché about the Foreign Office *Rolls-Royce* looking more like an old banger. Somehow we had not played cricket in Sierra Leone. Chaps had not behaved like chaps. As punishment, heaven help us, management consultants should be *summoned.* Meanwhile, back in Sierra Leone the holocaust continued.

History is awash in messages for want of which an empire is lost. Nobody should deride process and accountability. The woes detailed in the report are indeed woes, though hardly more woeful than revealed in last year's Legg report into the same affair. But no empire fell over Mr Penfold's missed message. As the report says, United Nations arms sanctions are a shambles. Mr Penfold's collusion with the mercenaries was naive, but given the *outcome he might have expected* the spin-doctors to handle it. When Nelson said at Copenhagen "I *really* do not see the signal", all England cheered.

Those who recall Mr Cook's juvenile hysteria on the pavement outside the Scott inquiry must smile at his discomfiture yester*day. How he used* to deride the Foreign Office defence behind *which he* now takes refuge. His attack on the report for using "the colourful language of political knockabout" is rich. Even richer was Downing Street's contribution. How dare the press write about Sierra Leone, said Mr Campbell or one of his stooges, when today it had been told to write about *the Government's education success*es? What an interesting response.

Simon Jenkins

This hypocrisy is beside the point. *Downing Street says the report is* unfair and disproportionate. It is certainly disproportionate. As with *the Scott report, here is another case* of an inquiry addressing itself to a lesser crime, as if to let government off some greater one. *Like Scott, the* report is high on hindsight. Its hindsight is so particular, so magnifying of one detail, as to distort the whole. It is all trees and no wood.

The proper question for a select committee is, what on earth were we doing meddling in Sierra Leone? How much of the blood now being shed in that miserable country is on Britain's hands? If there was a good reason for doing what we did, what is it? To all such questions, the report replies: "The committee's report does not deal with these wider matters." Its job is only to "examine the administration of the FCO and of reporting to the House". Who told it to do that? The Government Whips' Office? That is the job that could be left to consultants.

The Sierra Leone operation was full of lessons to which Parliament and the public *should be alerted.* Arms embargoes, root cause of the present row, are stupid if they fail to distinguish good guys from bad. The report draws attention to this but not to the wider of question of sanctions effectiveness. *It* deplores collusion with mercenaries. *But* mercenary activity has long underpinned British policy in the Gulf. Military adventures of the sort approved by Mr Penfold are always risky and often reckless. At least in Sierra Leone action was left to the private sector. If Britain now intends to plunge into civil wars across the globe we shall need mercenaries, or we shall run out of soldiers. Like a *Renaissance* prince, Mr Blair appears to want his flag fluttering over every battle*field. Sandline International and its* ilk will have to be his condottieri.

When arms-for-Africa broke into a "*scandal*" last year, we *hoped it* might diminish the Government's enthusiasm for such casual incursions into other people's civil wars. Cool Britannia might stay at home awhile and cultivate its garden. Perhaps other parts of the world might be left to sort out their troubles, and we might concentrate on ours. But no. Mr Blair and Mr Cook are now serial meddlers. They cannot resist trying to control. It is as if every foreign state were about to vote Ken Livingstone as mayor.

The latest issue of the Blairite journal *Renewal* analyses the Government's Third Way foreign policy in the most interventionist terms. Edmund Cairns (though it could be Mr Cook) *writes as follows:* "Britain cannot have an effective security policy without a holistic approach which fights *global exclusion* . . . complemented by a defence strategy that is capable and willing to protect civilians in the midst of conflicts." Mr Cairns does not say which civilians or what sort of conflicts. This is naked imperialism.

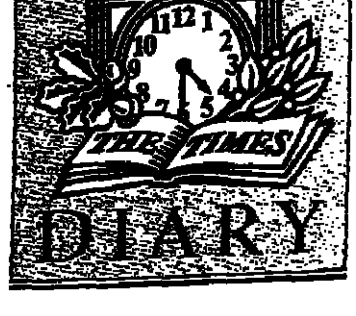
In pursuit of this garbled objective, Mr Cook now has economic sanctions of varying degrees of severity against half the world's *poorest nations. He has bombing* threats outstanding against Saddam Hussein and Slobodan Milosevic. *He is "actively involved" in the* future of Palestine. *He* has sent a minister to parley with the Taleban militia in Afghanistan. *Since he has* presumably squeezed Sierra Leone dry of "holism", the war in Eritrea must now be tantalising him.

Mr Cook and his French opposite number at present have the par*ties to the internal* conflict in Yugoslavia locked up in a château in Rambouillet. He has told *the Kosovan dissidents* to lay down their weapons and accept partial autonomy. He is telling the Belgrade Government to grant that autonomy and get its troops out. If it refuses, he will bomb them, or some of them, somewhere, somehow, sometime. He will also send in British troops to keep them all in order. All this because murders were committed by paramilitary gangs operating entirely within the borders of a sovereign state. "Third Ways" are apparently above law — *and above the heads of parliamenta*ry select committees.

Occasionally we should *dare* to see *ourselves as others do.* There is another European state much closer to home, also with a control-obsessed *Government* that cannot get regional separatists to disarm in return for partial autonomy. That Government has been reduced to setting murderers free and thus risks provoking the revival of a 25-year-old civil war. That Government is at its wits' end. Perhaps some kind foreigner should summon it to a French château and tell it what to do. Perhaps it might even offer to drop bombs if its advice is rejected.

How would we feel then?

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Smart move

PETER MANDELSON may not have to depart his beloved Notting Hill as swiftly as I predicted. Quietly, Mandy has helped to raise £500,000 for roofless sorts to stay in a hostel in the trendy cardboard box-less London enclave. The dosh, enough to pay back Geoffrey Robinson, will buy a refuge.

The repentant soul added weight to the campaign along with chums Elle Macpherson (below left) and Ruby Wax (*right*) as well as Lady Powell and Ruth Rendell. Among the spartan centre's attractions are the trained *staff* who will "give advice on housing and job openings". Save a bed for Peter.

● *MEANWHILE, Peter's bedtime arrangements are coming under scrutiny again. And we might now learn why Jeremy Paxman felt so guilty after Mandelson was "outed" on* Newsnight *that he dropped round a letter of apology.* Punch *says that Donald Macintyre, Mandelson's approved biographer, will report that Paxo enjoyed dinner with Mandelson's close friend Reinaldo Aliva da Silva. The jolly affair is said to have taken place at Robert Harris's county home. So*





will this be one of Macintyre's disclosures? "I've made it a rule not to talk about the book," he says.

Written off

BEFORE she died, Iris Murdoch destroyed five of her novels that she deemed unfit for publication.

The early works were begining to interest publishers, so *Dame Iris* ripped them up 30 years after writing them. "They showed a strong intellectual grip," Peter Conradi, writing her biography, tells me. "But she thought them juvenile. She was a good judge. From the remains I read, she was right."

After destroying one book and tossing it in the bin, Murdoch peered down and remarked that for *the first time* it looked *quite* good. Later she rallied, and watched with relief as it was taken by dustmen.

● *HANDBAG wars at the Tory Winter Ball, where Sir Rocco Forte and Wafic Said indulged in a spot of competitive tendering for a signed handbag of Baroness Thatcher. The hotelier pulled out of the auction just before his fellow swank bid £12,500. "Wafic has a lot more firepower than me," Sir Rocco tells me. "It would have been fun but I am a lot better off now."*

Smoked out

AN ATTEMPT to exploit the good name of Lord Charles Spencer-Churchill in aid of a planned cigar



bar in Mayfair has backfired. While applying for a licence, the developers suggested that the Duke of Marlborough's brother had lent his support. But Lord Charles let the planning people know that he was *not* involved. The council then refused to give permission.

● *TOILERS at Cartier have found the answer to Rolex-robbers: wrapping watches in Harrods bags. I hear: "They look like cheap knick-knacks bought by the provincial coach party brigade."*

Good heavens

A ROCKET for the Roman Catholic Church from Sir Elton John. The theological thinker and his chum David Furnish are to *make a movie* of a book the church labelled "shocking and deplorable". *In God's Name* alleges *Pope John* Paul I was murdered by the Mafia. Furnish insists that the couple's *interest* is purely artistic. "It has a case well argued." An argument unlikely to impress John Paul II.

JASPER GERARD

I may never again raise my fedora as I pass Buck House, nor, at some formal dinner-table, wait respectfully until the loyal toast before lighting up

If, this morning, I tell you that my heart aches and a drowsy numbness pains my *sense, you will probably nod* smugly, knowing my little ways, and say, yes, there we go, he has been overdosing on nicotine again, he has been up half the night smoking, he has only himself to blame, he will get no sympathy from us, it is a filthy *habit,* look at his fingers, *sniff* his hair, check his ceiling, clock his clothes.

*But while you would be unar*guably right on all counts, you would still not have got anywhere near the nub of this particular aching numbness, since it is both different from the matutinal norm, and immeasurably worse: for while I have *indeed been up half the night* smoking, that is because I have been up half the night worrying about smoking. More particularly, about the serious effect smoking might henceforth have on me: for what really aches my *heart and numbs my sense this* fateful morning is that, after six unflaggingly loyal decades, I may never again rise to my feet for the national anthem, never again put folding money on this royal nag or that against the odds, never again raise my fedora as I pass Buck House, never again, at some formal dinner-table, wait respectfully *until the loyal toast* before lighting up, nor, at some more contentious one, ask a republican to step outside and repeat that. For although the monarchy has been not merely a lifelong habit with me but also a pleasure, a support, and a solace, I am *now seriously thinking of giving* it up.

That is because, in the shatter*ing decision she just taken* to withdraw the royal warrant from cigarette manufacturers, *the Queen — no, make* that the queen; if I have not yet given up, at *least* let me cut down — has turned her back on me.

Alan Coren

And what makes that rejection more bit*ter yet is that it was* none other than she who had always sus*tained me against the manifold* rejections of all the rest: what did I care if theatres and cinemas barred their doors against me, or cabbies threw me out, or doctors struck me off, or public transport belied its name, or chic restaurants directed me to the manky *chip-shops opposite, or airlines* reduced my transglobal dreams to short-hop nightmares, or even *dear friends said would you* mind awfully . . . what did any of this matter when, back on the lonely pave*ment, I could slip from* my coat-pocket a pack of Silk Cut whose titchy golden escutcheon would catch the moonlight, lion and unicorn rampant to assure me that what I was about to ignite had been *personally appointed by* my sovereign lady? Not smoke? Dear God, it seemed *an* act of treason to abstain!

More yet, my gratitude for this approval led me to honour all the rest of her endorsements. While other anxious shoppers trolleyed the supermarket aisles, squinting at e-numbers, additives, *substitutes, sell-by dates, fat* contents, mineral deposits, national provenances, political recti*tudes, and* umpteen other boons and threats, I have never sought any signal but one. Enter my larder and you will find only her *gracious marmalade, her regal* fish-paste, her sovereign cereal, her radiant sauce.

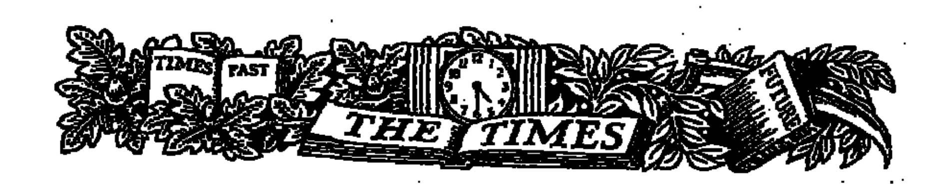
What is my scullery but a little shrine to her palate? A place of not just devotion but, yes, communion: oft in the stilly night, when I have tiptoed *down for a cold beef sandwich* and a glass of stout, a devoted tear has pricked my eye at the *thought* that, just a few miles up the road, she herself might, at that very moment, be spreading the self-same mustard on the self-same bread, and raising the self-same nectar to her lip.

But that's all over, now. Even as I *write,* the Master of the Queen's Fagges, ordained to sample the market in her service, is *glumly stuffing his bits and* bobs into his gunny-sack while he waits for his P45 to come down from upstairs, no doubt *recalling with a heavy heart* those jolly weekly exchanges — "Are one's ciggies still full of flavour?", "Unquestionably ma'am, and as firmly packed as ever", "And the tips sufficiently corky?", "Indeed so, Your Majesty, and a snip at the price" . . . *doomed now to be naught but* a secret between him and the tabloid press; and it is therefore time for me, in my turn, to go down and clear out my larder.

Odd, that it should be exactly 400 years since Walter Raleigh taught a grateful queen to smoke. Though it pains me deeply to say it, they don't, I fear, *make* Elizabeths like *they* used to.

comment@the-times.co.uk





FALSE ASYLUM

The current system is neither firm nor fair

Britain's tolerance of asylum-seekers has, in recent years, been heavily strained by foreigners making bogus applications and abusing the system. Reports of such incidents, sometimes exaggerated, have overshadowed the plight of genuine refugees. Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, yesterday published the Asylum and Immigration Bill, which he hopes will make the application system "firm, fast and fair" for all. He deserves credit for confronting a treacherous issue before it becomes dangerously divisive.

Mr Straw should ignore criticism that his plans are too tough. Some of the proposals lack detail, and one — forming reception zones for migrants — is ill-advised. Yet, taken as a whole, they show that Mr Straw is addressing many of the failings of the current antiquated system, which is woefully unable to cope with the rising number of asylum-seekers.

The Home Secretary has correctly diagnosed the existing process as a bureaucratic "mess", open to exploitation. Over the past decade, the trickle of people seeking asylum in Britain has swelled into a flood. There were 4,000 applicants in 1988, and 46,000 last year. The ability to appeal, time and again, if an application is refused, means that refugees can wait years before they know their fate. More than 75,000 applicants are currently in the queue. Processing delays cost taxpayers £500 million a year, and give people who would not warrant asylum too much time to vanish or enter a fake marriage. At the end of this sorry, expensive story, seven out of ten applicants are turned away.

The Home Secretary's Bill will accelerate and tighten the process. He has set ambitious targets to deal with applications within two months, and hear any appeal within the next four months. If that appeal is turned down, the applicant will be deported. Such a change is not "unfair", as some refugee organisations suggest, but long overdue. So too is the new regulatory body to put out of business unscrupulous "immigration advisers" who exploit migrants' ignorance of the application process. Mr Straw is also wisely trying to prevent migrants using wedlock as a legal loophole, by giving registrars new powers to scrutinise suspected "sham" marriages.

Other plans, although well-intended, are less well conceived. The Home Secretary intends to strip asylum-seekers of their right to social security cash benefits, and give them vouchers or support in kind "at a level to ensure their subsistence". The all-important fine print, detailing how this system will work, has yet to emerge. Mr Straw will need to tread carefully in this treacherous terrain. The previous Government received a stinging rebuke in the Court of Appeal when it deprived some refugees of social security benefits.

The most ill-considered proposal aims to iron out an existing anomaly, whereby some local authorities (especially those which administer ports or airports in the South East) must house asylum-seekers. Most council taxpayers in those areas will support Mr Straw's proposal to deny migrants a choice of accommodation. Yet giving the Home Secretary the power to force local authorities to house them in unoccupied homes (termed "reception zones") is a policy riddled with risk. Unless councils are adequately compensated for the costs of housing and caring for asylum-seekers, this approach could inflame tensions between migrants and local communities. If Mr Straw is really intent on keeping track of bogus asylum-seekers, he should consider the practice adopted in many European countries, where migrants are kept in special hostels until their application has been processed.

The public's willingness to support asylum-seekers depends on the application system being firm but fair. At present, it is neither. Mr Straw has made a commendable start at reform. But the devil is there to trap him in the detail.

PASS THE PARCEL

A game from Sierra Leone for MPs of all parties

The report produced by the House of Commons Foreign Affairs Select Committee yesterday employs unprecedented language in its assault on the competence of senior civil servants and on the Foreign Secretary's efforts to "obstruct" its work. Robin Cook retorted that the MPs had not produced a single fact that had not appeared in the Legg report last summer. The Prime Minister then dismissed their findings as "wholly disproportionate".

The evidence analysed in this report is certainly similar to that published by Sir Thomas Legg. Some of criticism of the FCO Permanent Secretary, Sir John Kerr — namely that he "failed in his duties to ministers" — might reasonably be considered excessive. That does not mean that the committee uncovered nothing of merit, or that its conclusions are unwarranted.

It is hardly surprising that in strictly factual terms the committee discovered little that differed from Sir Thomas's narrative. They were, belatedly, dealing with exactly the same material and the Foreign Secretary refused to allow them access to those officials in the intelligence community who might have enlightened them further. The story of utter confusion about the meaning of a United Nations resolution that Britain had apparently helped to draft, and the internal communications failures within Whitehall and between London and Peter Penfold, the High Commissioner to Sierra Leone, is still shocking. The oral evidence acquired by the committee does add some useful detail to this sorry saga.

The purpose of any select committee document is, crucially, different from that of an official, especially internal, inquiry. Sir Thomas rightly confined himself to the procedural aspects of events — who did what and when — and steered clear of any comment on matters that might be considered within the realm of political management. It was this aspect that, equally correctly, the select committee felt fell within its remit. In order to carry out that task, the MPs required timely access to relevant documents and individuals. They often found their path blocked by a Foreign Secretary who was determined that the Legg report would be the last word on the shambles. This was, as Donald Anderson, the Labour MP who chairs the committee, complained yesterday, an entirely improper fashion in which to conduct business.

The arrogance of the department during the investigation itself has now been trumped by the shameless efforts of the Prime Minister and Foreign Secretary to discredit the select committee report after publication. There is no aspect of this episode that reflects well upon the Foreign Office. Tony Blair should not have determined to deploy his personal authority to defend the indefensible.

This sudden ministerial zeal to defend the honour of their mandarins will amuse many in the Foreign Office. They will recall Mr Cook's haste to disown his officials when this controversy first became public. The doctrine of ministerial responsibility may sometimes have been exaggerated but, in moderated form, it is an essential part of the constitution. Officials could be forgiven for assuming that the doctrine has been redefined to mean that ministers take full responsibility for successful policies while civil servants assume responsibility for all failures. It must be hoped that Mr Cook has learnt the lessons of this affair and is today more diplomatic with colleagues at home and abroad than he has so far been with the select committee.

ROCK OF AGES

Or how Debbie burst from her Jurassic Park

Pop music used to be sung by the young to outrage the old. Now it is sung by the old to embarrass the young. More than 30 years have passed since the Stones set their rock revolution rolling. The generation who first grooved along to concerts has grown up to a museum-going middle age. And the announcement that Britain is to open a National Museum for Popular Music is just another sign of this maturity.

Based in Sheffield, this Jurassic Park of pop will revive the personalities of lost decades. The centre's four circular exhibition halls will house a surround-sound auditorium and several themed rooms. Visitors will be taken on a whistle-stop tour of world pop. And music that was born of a spirit of rebellion will be placed firmly in the context of society's cultural canon.

In harking back to bygone times, this centre will serve to reflect current fashions in pop. Funky sounds that should be little more than fond memories have in recent years been enjoying a cultural comeback. Faded stars are shooting back up the charts. Slade had a revival when the Brit band Oasis covered their classic *Cum On Feel the Noize*. Engelbert Humperdinck, the easy listening old crooner, has recently been remixed to a dance band beat. Some 20 years since Debbie Harry sang a succession of number ones, the Blondie bombshell has blasted her way back to the prime pop slot. Even Elvis Presley appears to have proved himself a virtual reality. The dead King recently took headline billing at Wembley, and packed the arena.

Some may complain that, by providing a permanent monument to what should be essentially ephemeral, the National Museum of Popular Culture will destroy the thing that it most professes to love: the spirit of protest from which rock culture rose. The museum curators and exhibition designers hope that the centre, through educating visitors, will inspire them to make music themselves, to take up an instrument or form a band. They hope further to feed and encourage one of Britain's most vibrant and lucrative industries.

In comparison with other forms of cultural expression, with writing or painting, for example, pop is still in adolescence. Its pulse beats strong. Its music may currently be going through a phase of imitations, of retro remixes and rebranded names. But with the imagination and innovation of each generation, pop will rebel and find new fashions. And the rock of ages can only serve as a firm foundation for music's future.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

'Haunting' lessons of Balkan history

From Colonel Charles H. Wilson (retd)

Sir, The reservations in your timely leading article, "Gladstone's shade" (February 3), urging Mr Blair to give the full reasons to the British people for putting troops in harm's way in Kosovo are well made.

The "gamble that logic of survival will win out over nationalist passion in a region where logic has the shallowest of roots" is a forlorn hope in the light of Fitzroy Maclean's experience, as described in *Eastern Approaches* (Jonathan Cape, 1949). Of the Partisans he said:

> All had one thing in common, an intensive pride in their movement. For them the outside world did not seem of interest or importance. What mattered was their war of National Liberation, their struggle, their victories, their sacrifices.

On the subject of the Nato intervention force — variously put at about 35,000, of which Britain will provide the lion's share proportionately — patently there is little to compare between the Balkan war of the Forties and the present turmoil. Nonetheless it is a haunting thought that the Germans and Italians employed upwards of ten divisions with supporting troops and aircraft (200,000 men) against the Partisans. Whenever the Axis troops came near to success the Partisans extricated themselves, faded away and reappeared elsewhere to fight another day.

Two facts have not changed, the doughtiness of the Slav soldier and his devotion to a cause.

Yours faithfully,
CHARLES WILSON,
Foxhills,
70 Long Road, Framingham Earl,
Norwich NR14 7RZ.
February 5.

From Mr G. L. Leigh

Sir, Does the United Kingdom owe a duty to the Kosovan people? If so, how does it arise and what precisely is its extent? If the answer is humanitarian and limitless I wonder why we do not dispatch troops worldwide, eg, to stop the Hutus and Tutsis killing one another.

You hint in your leading article that war in the Balkans must be stopped as international instability threatens our trading interests. How so? Arms are one of our principal exports.

Yours faithfully,
G. L. LEIGH,
85 Leith Mansions,
Grantully Road, Maida Vale, W9 1LJ.
February 4.

From Mr Garth ap Rees

Sir, Gladstone's shade walks not only in the Balkans but in Africa as well. In 1894, the final year of his last administration, Uganda was granted the status of a British protectorate by the Crown. A Tenniel *Punch* cartoon depicted Uganda as a foundling placed at the feet of Queen Victoria.

Your leading article refers to British troops serving the cause of European peace and that, as "a trading nation with global interests", Britain must be "prepared to deploy its forces where international stability is threatened".

The inference here is that we do not regard the current events in Sudan, Somalia, the countries of the Great Lakes region, Angola and Liberia as threats to international stability, despite trading with them. Only Sierra Leone merits a "gunship" and considerable additional support for a democratically elected President, a resolute and admirable High Commissioner and embarrassment over the Sandline involvement.

After a lifetime of working in and for Africa, dating from 1958, I can only reflect sadly that, irrespective of the government of the day, the final scoreline always reads Europe 1 Africa 0. Despite all the talk of globalisation, it seems to me that basic attitudes have barely changed for a century.

Yours faithfully,
GARTH ap REES
(Member, UN Development Programme, 1964-92),
Cranhill House, Piers Road,
Cranmore, Somerset BA4 4QH.
February 4.

Exploring Mars

From Dr Patrick Moore

Sir, Your report (February 2) on plans for a robot aircraft, *Kitty Hawk*, to fly over the Red Planet takes me back to the only conversation I ever had with Orville Wright at the very start of the Second World War, when I was an (admittedly under-age) teenager learning how to fly.

I had about ten minutes' talk and I well remember saying: "Will we ever fly to the Moon?" He paused, and said: "Well, they said we couldn't fly over the Earth, but we did."

Neil Armstrong, the first man on the Moon, and Orville Wright, the first airman, could have met. I am sure they didn't, but their lives overlapped.

Where is the first man on Mars?

Yours faithfully,
PATRICK MOORE,
Farthings, West Street,
Selsey, Sussex PO20 9AD.
February 7.

Letters for publication may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.
e-mail to: *letters@the-times.co.uk*

Editors face 'war' over regulation

From the Executive Director of the Association of British Editors

Sir, Editors should not be unduly concerned about being unloved by the politicians nor, for that matter, by the low esteem in which they are held by Middle England.

However, they ought to be alarmed when friendly peers such as Lord Williams of Mostyn and Lord McNally (letter, February 6) show a more than keen interest in the performance and procedures of the Press Complaints Commission. Former PCC member Gerald Isaaman (letter, same day) also highlights the need for a fundamental reappraisal of the PCC's remit.

When the chairman, Lord Wakeham, insists the commission works as well as it can do within these terms of reference he effectively makes Lord McNally's case that "things cannot be left as they are".

Lord McNally speaks, no doubt, with an awareness of the legislation that lurks in the volume of directives waiting to be issued by the European Union, which will, assuredly, put considerable restraints on the British media if it is decreed that self-regulation is not working.

Not unnaturally, editors would prefer to ignore such threats in the hope that they will go away. We always have done so in the past and can point to the fact that David Mellor's notorious last-chance saloon never actually closed its doors.

Sadly, therefore, we have done little with the time borrowed, courtesy of the previous Government's other concerns. We have not honed the instrument of self-regulation because we are aware that sharp blades can be dangerous. There is now, however, a growing awareness that a blunt weapon in the wrong hands can be equally damaging.

Editors need, as a matter of some urgency, to step back from their individual circulation battles and unite to prepare for the inevitability of war being waged against them by self-interested politicians.

Yours faithfully,
JOCK GALLAGHER,
Executive Director,
Association of British Editors,
49 Frederick Road,
Birmingham B15 1HN.

From Sir Richard Storey

Sir, On the matter of the Press Complaints Commission's right to initiate an investigation, Lord Wakeham (February 6) expresses his somewhat legalistic and pedantic views trenchantly, but they are helium!

The Press Council, on which I was privileged to serve under the then Mr Patrick Neill (now Lord Neill of Bladen) and subsequently under Sir Zelman Cowan, both conspicuously brilliant and distinguished chairmen, did undertake its own investigations without prior complaint. It was respectable, by reason of its very high standards of adjudication, albeit not everywhere respected — partly owing to its self-imposed laborious procedures in the name of natural justice, partly to the political climate of the time.

So far as I recall, such a right of investigation was easy to assume, undertake, and accomplish; I have always advocated it for the PCC.

Surely other self-regulatory bodies are, typically, able to investigate without prior complaint and also have teeth, for the lack of which the present PCC is frequently, and probably rightly, criticised.

Surely it is now time for the PCC to stop its special pleading and, by studying the virtues of other regulatory bodies, seek to emulate them in their powers of investigation and the penalties they impose.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD STOREY
(Chairman, Portsmouth & Sunderland Newspapers plc, 1973-98),
Settrington House,
Malton, Yorkshire YO17 8NP.
February 8.

Nuclear power

From Professor Ian Fells, FEng, FRSE

Sir, Sir Christopher Harding and Sir Bernard Ingham invite us to "embrace nuclear power" (letter, February 2; see also letters, February 6).

Over 40 years ago, when the industry was in its first flush of youth, we embraced it eagerly. Now, in mature middle age, it provides 17 per cent of world electricity. Without it, carbon dioxide emissions from electricity generators would rise by 17 per cent. Nevertheless, the green movement, despite its concern for the environment, cannot bring itself to see any virtue in nuclear power and is determined to close down the industry.

It seems to me that the way ahead must lie with "clean energy", which is a mix of renewable and nuclear energy. There is a synergy between them which is becoming apparent.

If anyone can show me how to provide the predicted doubling, even trebling of world energy demand post-2050 without a large nuclear input, particularly if some attempt is made to curb the carbon dioxide emissions, I shall be delighted.

But if, as I suspect, this proves to be impossible, let us get on with making nuclear energy as safe and efficient as we can, instead of constantly sniping at it and demoralising the workforce.

Yours faithfully,
IAN FELLS,
University of Newcastle,
Merz Court,
Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 7RU.
February 6.

From Sir James Hann

Sir, We must not allow strongly held views on the nuclear industry — such as those of Peter Melchett (letter, February 6) — to cloud the issues surrounding the future supply of energy. The accident at Chernobyl was a tragedy of huge proportions, but the generation of electricity by nuclear means does not pollute and is safer and cheaper than at any time in the industry's short history. More to the point, unless there is a major technical breakthrough on other energy sources, nuclear generation will be needed.

Energy supply is a global issue which will be significantly affected by the huge growth in world population: expected to double within three decades. Add to this factor people's increasing aspirations, the environmental issues of global warming, the predicted threefold increase in world demand for electricity and the finite nature of fossil fuels, and we have a potential shortfall in energy supply which could only be filled by nuclear and renewables.

This matter is serious. I believe we need an authoritative, independent study, properly structured and funded, to determine the facts based on current knowledge, to review all the fuel options and to recommend to government positive ways forward. To ignore the problem by brushing it aside would be dangerously complacent.

Yours faithfully,
JAMES HANN (Chairman, Scottish Nuclear, 1990-95),
Bramley Cottage, Bullhouse Lane,
Wrington, Bristol BS40 5NY.
February 7.

Hoddle and Woodhead

From Mrs Helen Simmons

Sir, It seems that, according to the Government, a remark on a belief in reincarnation is grounds for sacking someone (letters, February 1, 3, 4, 5).

If, however, a high-ranking member of the teaching profession says it could be "educative on both sides" for an adult in a position of authority over a teenager to have sex with that teenager (even though he has since apologised), then it seems the same Government doesn't think such a remark worthy of the sack (report, "Blunkett rejects call for inspector to resign", February 8).

Is the world crazy?

Yours,
HELEN SIMMONS,
Willow House, Swaffham Road,
Wendling, Norfolk NR19 2AB.
February 8.

Brawls in the air

From Dr Stuart Anderson

Sir, Given the increasing number of media reports of alcohol-related anti-social behaviour on board passenger aircraft, is it not time for the airline industry to review its policy on the supply of alcohol to air travellers?

Human nature being what it is, individuals cannot be relied upon to regulate their own behaviour when intoxicated. Further, in the interests of maintaining fair play to all passengers, why don't airlines offer designated alcohol-free seats for individuals who may prefer not to have to sit next to intoxicated fellow travellers, especially in such a confined space?

Yours sincerely,
STUART ANDERSON,
74e Oatlands Drive,
Slough, Berkshire SL1 3HU.
February 4.

Business school fees

From Mr Wafic Rida Saïd

Sir, Your Diary column's report (February 2) on my role at the Business School at Oxford University is somewhat wide of the mark.

Firstly, the level of tuition fees charged by the Business School is nothing to do with me. I have no involvement in academic issues or in the running of the school. These are matters for the school's director and faculty, and the university more generally.

Secondly, you suggest that Oxford University "discouraged" my support for building the Business School. In fact, my support for the school was solicited by the university's development office and Vice-Chancellor and the project was endorsed by an overwhelming majority of its dons.

Thirdly, you appear to believe that the school is mine and that it is merely "linked" to the university. The truth is that it is a fully integrated part of Oxford University which happens to bear my name in the same way that a host of other institutions carry the name of their major donors.

Yours faithfully,
WAFIC RIDA SAID,
27 Avenue Princesse Grace,
98000 Monaco.
February 5.

Ageism not only unfair to oldies

From Professor Emeritus Peter Landsberg

Sir, Ruling out life peers over the age of 75 from sitting in the Lords (report, February 5) would send a bad signal to the rest of the country. Lord Jenkins of Hillhead and Lord Healey, for example, could make much more substantial contributions in the Lords than many of their younger colleagues.

The proposal reflects the well-known tendency to assess people and organisations by counting something, even if that something is somewhat irrelevant. The reason? Counting is easier than thinking.

Yours etc,
PETER LANDSBERG,
Faculty of Mathematical Studies,
University of Southampton,
Southampton SO17 1BJ.
ptl@maths.soton.ac.uk
February 5.

From Mr Malcolm MacLeod

Sir, Mr John Carlisle, a former Conservative MP (letter, February 4), quoting an article by Mary Ann Sieghart, refers to Tory "old lags". He disparages former MPs of "near retirement age" and a "middle-aged" adviser at Central Office. Mr Hague is praised for youthfulness and Mr Carlisle recommends that he surround himself with colleagues of similar age. I suspect these views command more support than they deserve.

By what right does Mr Carlisle assume that the young are inevitably superior in "quality" to those talented older members of our society and institutions who have honed their life skills and gained sagacity through long experience? Human qualities are variable, and with age they often vary for the better.

Is it not time for ageism to be condemned in our national life as loudly as racism or sexism?

Yours sincerely,
MALCOLM MacLEOD,
62 Main Street,
Cleator, Cumbria CA23 3BT.
February 5.

Reform of the Lords

From The Viscount Davidson

Sir, The letter today from Mr Piers Ashworth, QC, headed "Take the politics out of the Lords", reminded me of the time when I inherited my title from my father in 1970.

Both of my parents had been in the House of Commons as Conservative MPs, and both had been ennobled by Conservative prime ministers. It was therefore natural that I should take the Conservative whip.

But, throughout my time here, I have always considered that my privilege and duty as a (hereditary) peer outweighed my political background. So it was, as a backbencher, I voted on occasions against the policies of the Conservative Government. When later I became a whip, I felt no chagrin when the Government was defeated, for this was the House of Lords doing its duty and proclaiming its *raison d'être*.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
DAVIDSON,
House of Lords.
February 1.

The Monty style

From Mr J. Howard-Jones

Sir, A "Monty" anecdote from Miles Noonan's *Tales from the Mess* (Hutchinson, 1983) to add to your correspondence (letters, January 18, 22, 28; February 3).

As a lieutenant-colonel in the 1930s, the subsequent field marshal was commanding a battalion of the Royal Warwickshire Regiment in India. The brigade commander, late of the Grenadier Guards, was a stickler for correct parade ground drill.

At an annual parade, he calculated that Montgomery was six paces to the left of the precise centre of the troops lined up behind him. He told the colonel to correct this error. Montgomery stood his ground and ordered the 500-strong battalion to move six paces to its left.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN HOWARD-JONES,
Cholsey Grange, Ibstone,
High Wycombe, HP14 3XT.
February 5.

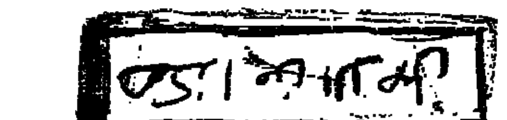
Reds under the beds?

From Mr Michael Hencke

Sir, Your report today on the health benefits of Chilean wines in limiting the "harm done by destructive free radicals" is disquieting, given that this seems to be broadly what his supporters claim General Pinochet brought to the Chilean body politic.

Are those intending to drink this elixir thus best advised to consult their lawyers about immunity from Spanish legal action or, as Chilean cabernet sauvignons far outperformed Spanish ones in the University of Glasgow tests, would the Spaniards just be suffering from a case of sour grapes?

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL HENCKE,
40 St George's Drive,
Pimlico, SW1V 4BP.
February 4.





COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
February 9: His Excellency Mr Vuong Thua Pong was received in audience by The Queen and presented his Letter of Credence as Ambassador of Vietnam to the Court of St James's.

Mrs Ngo Thi Phi Nga was received by Her Majesty.

His Excellency Dr Richard Grant was received in farewell audience by The Queen and took leave upon His Excellency relinquishing his appointment as High Commissioner for New Zealand in London.

The Dean of Westminster was received by The Queen.

The Lord Camoys (Lord Chamberlain) had an audience of The Queen and presented an Address from the House of Lords to which Her Majesty was graciously pleased to make reply.

The Right Hon Tony Blair, MP (Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury) had an audience of The Queen this evening.

CLARENCE HOUSE
February 9: The Hon Mrs Rhodes has succeeded Dame Frances Campbell-Preston as Lady-in-Waiting to Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother.

ST JAMES'S PALACE
February 9: The Prince of Wales, President, The Prince's Trust, today presented the 500th Prince's Youth Business Trust award to be made in Gloucestershire.

His Royal Highness, Chancellor, The University of Wales, this afternoon held a lunch for the Pro-Chancellor, Senior Vice-Chancellor, Secretary General and a group of students.

The Prince of Wales, Vice President, The National Trust for Places of Historic Interest or Natural Beauty, later visited Step Farm, one of the Trust's Organic Farms.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
February 9: The Prince Edward, President, this evening attended a performance of *Kissing Dance* given by the National Youth Music Theatre at the Lyric Theatre Hammersmith, King Street, London W6.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
February 9: The Princess Royal, Patron, Basic Skills Agency, this *morning* attended the British Council International Seminar at the Strand Palace Hotel, The Strand, London WC2.

Her Royal Highness this afternoon officially opened Moorcroft School, Bramble Close, Hillingdon, Uxbridge, Greater London.

The Princess Royal, President, Save the Children Fund, later attended the Industry and Commerce Group Meeting, followed by a Reception at St James's Palace.

KENSINGTON PALACE
February 9: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, Colonel-in-Chief Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps, today received Brigadier Jane Arigho on relinquishing her appointment as Director of Army Nursing Services, Matron-in-*chief (Army), and Colonel Bridget* McEvilly on assuming this appointment.

ST JAMES'S PALACE
February 9: The Duke of Kent, President, Edexcel Foundation, this morning attended Edexcel Student of the Year Awards at Drapers' Hall, Throgmorton Avenue, London EC2.

Royal engagements

The Prince of Wales will open the General Osteopathic Council Building, 176 Tower Bridge Road, London SE1, at 11.15.

The Princess Royal, president, British Knitting and Clothing Export Council, will visit the Scottish Apparel Group, 6th Floor, 5 Portland Place, London W1, at 10.15; as patron, the Home Farm Trust, will attend their management board update meeting at Mitsubishi Electric, Kierran Cross, 11 The Strand, London WC2, at 11.30; as president, Royal Yachting Association, will attend a council meeting at the Royal Thames Yacht Club, 60 Knightsbridge, at 3.00; and will present the Whitley Award Scheme for International Conservation Awards at the Royal Geographical Society, 1 Kensington Gore, London SW7, at 6.30.

Princess Margaret, president, the Birmingham Royal Ballet, will attend the London Premiere of *The Prospect Before Us* and *The Protecting Veil* at the new Sadler's Wells Theatre, Rosebery Avenue, London EC1, at 7.30.

Air Marshal Sir Donald Hall

A service of thanksgiving for the life of Air Marshal Sir Donald Hall, KCB, CBE, AFC, will be held on Thursday, April 22, 1999, at noon at St Clement Danes, Strand, London WC2. Those intending to be present are asked to notify the Ministry of Defence, Pld (Ceremonial)(RAF) on 0171 218 2524/or 2628.

STUART CONWAY



Alexandra Aitken, Jonathan Aitken's daughter, modelling at a charity fashion show and party in aid of the NSPCC held yesterday at the K Bar, Chelsea.

School news

Harrow School
In addition to the programme of events already circulated to members of the Harrow Association there will be a service in the School Chapel at 10.15am on Saturday, February 13, in commemoration of *the late King Hussein of Jordan* (OH). The scheduled Founder's Day service at 5pm will also include an act of commemoration.

Eton College
The following have won Music Awards in 1999:
Music Scholarships: Gwilym Evans (The Cathedral School, Llandaff), *Richard Jones* (Hazelwood School), Jonathan Kanagasooriam (St Edmund's Junior School, Canterbury), Matthew Knight (Dulwich College Prep School), *John Lattimore* (Milbourne Lodge), Timothy Lowe (The Minster School, York), Charles Siem (Colet Court), Christian Stobbs (St Edmund's Junior School, Canterbury).
Music Exhibitions: Sébastien Hine (The Pilgrims' School), David Leslie (Westminster Cathedral Choir School), Andrew Lim (Summer Fields), Toby MacLachlan (Dolphin School), Patrick Meyer Higgins (Thomas's), Dominic Munton (The Cathedral Choir School, Ripon), Peter Rice (Newland House).

Baron Williamson of Horton

The life barony conferred upon Sir David Francis Williamson has been gazetted by the name, style and title of **Baron Williamson of Horton**, of Horton in the County of Somerset.

Birthdays today

Mr Larry Adler, mouth organist, 85; Mr Michael Apted, film director, 58; Field Marshal Sir Nigel Bagnall, 72; Sir Michael Bishop, chairman, British Midland Airways, 57; Miss Olwyn Bowey, painter, 63; Dr Alexander Comfort, *physician, poet and novelist*, 79; Mr John Hayes, former secretary-general, Law Society, 54; the Rev Donald Hilton, former Moderator of the General Assembly of the *United Reformed Church*, 67; Major Norman Kark, former Editor, *Courier*, 101; Mr Peter Middleton, former chief executive, Lloyd's, 59; Lord Milne, 90; Mr Greg Norman, golfer, 44; *Lord Orr-Ewing*, 87; Mr Nicholas Owen, broadcaster, 52; Group Captain Sir Gordon Pirie, 81; Miss Leontyne Price, soprano, 72; Sir Idwal Pugh, former Ombudsman, 81; Miss Gail Rebuck, chief executive, Random House, 47; Lord Justice Rose, 62; Mr Mark Spitz, swimmer, 49; Mr Robert Wagner, actor, 69.

Royal Caledonian Ball

The Royal Caledonian Ball will be held on Thursday, April 29, at Grosvenor House, London W1. Dinner at 86 Park Lane 7.30pm for 8pm, tickets at £39 to include a half *bottle of wine*.

The Ball commences at 10.30pm with dancing until 3.30am, tickets at £69 to include wine, whisky and full breakfast. General enquiries to Mrs Roger Tym, tel: 01264 810363, fax: 01264 810071, email: royalcalb@aol.com. Ticket applications to Mrs Nicholas Bardswell, 24 Onslow Road, Richmond, Surrey TW10 6QF, tel/answerphone: 0181 940 8079, fax: 0181 332 9448.

Luncheon

Distillers' Company
Mr Ian Coombs, Master of the Distillers' Company, presented the Company Scholarships to Mr Richard Parsons-Jones and Mr Brian Lottig at a luncheon held yesterday at Vintners' Hall. Lord Macfarlane of Bearsden, KT, was also present. *Prior to the luncheon* the High Commissioner for Canada was presented with the Honorary Livery of the Company.

Reception

Rotary Club of London
The American Ambassador presented the Rotary International Award of Honour to Sir Sigmund *Sternberg at a reception held* yesterday at the American Embassy.

Dinners

Foundation for Science and Technology
Lord Jenkin of Roding, Chairman of the Council of the Foundation for Science and Technology, was in the chair at a lecture and dinner discussion held at the Royal Society last night. Dr David Fisk, Professor Stephen Glaister, M Jean-François Abramatic and Mr Edward Gillespie were the speakers.

The Electrical Contractors' Association
Mr George Ashcroft, President of the Electrical Contractors' Association, presided at the Annual Dinner held last night at Grosvenor House. Mr Terry Rochester, CB, Chairman, Construction Clients' Forum, was principal guest and speaker. Office Bearers from leading Trade Associations, Confederations and Federations, AEEU, the Civil Service, Members of Parliament and leading figures and company representatives from the electrical industry were among those present.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Charles Lamb, essayist, London, 1775; Samuel Plimsoll, inventor of the Plimsoll line for ships, Bristol, 1824; Boris Pasternak, poet and novelist, Moscow, 1890; W.T. Tilden, tennis champion, Philadelphia, 1893; Harold Macmillan, 1st Earl of Stockton, Prime Minister 1957-63, London, 1894; Bertolt Brecht, dramatist and theatre director, Augsburg, Germany, 1898; Joyce Grenfell, actress *and broadcaster, London, 1910*.

DEATHS: Sir William Dugdale, Garter King of Arms 1677-86, Blyth Hall, Warwickshire, 1686; Charles Louis de Secondat, Baron de Montesquieu, philosopher, Paris, 1755; Alexander Pushkin, writer, 1837; Samuel Prout, watercolourist, Camberwell, 1852; David Thompson, explorer, Longueuil, Quebec, 1857; Francis Danby, painter, Exmouth, 1861; David Brewster, philosopher, Allerby, Melrose, 1868; Joseph Lister, 1st Baron Lister, surgeon and pioneer of antiseptic surgery, Walmer, Kent, 1912; Wilhelm Konrad von Rontgen, discoverer of X-rays, Nobel laureate 1901, Munich, 1923; *Achille Ratti, Pope Pius XI 1922-39*, Rome, 1939; Hugh Montague Trenchard, 1st Viscount Trenchard, Marshal of the RAF, Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police *1931-35*, 1956.

The marriage of Queen Victoria to Prince Albert of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, 1840.

The use of the revised version of the Bible was authorised by the Church of England, 1889.

New Delhi became the capital of India, 1931.

Pay-as-you-earn (PAYE) system of income tax was introduced, 1944.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr R.C. Harwood-Matthews and Miss C.L. Smith
The engagement is announced between Robert, son of Mr and Mrs Charles Harwood-Matthews, of Emsworth, Hampshire, and Charlotte, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Derek Smith, of Brighton, Sussex.

Mr S.M. Hoare and Mlle A. Catoire
The engagement is announced between Simon, son of Mr David Hoare and Mrs Vanessa Hoare, of Luscombe, Devon, and Aurélie, daughter of M and Mme Jean-François Catoire, of Paris.

Mr R. McCadden and Miss A. Taylor
The engagement is announced between Richard, son of Mr Richard McCadden and the late Mrs McCadden, of Glasgow, and Angela, daughter of Mr and Mrs Colin Taylor, of Christchurch, New Zealand.

***Mr G.R. McCormick* and Miss I.A. Winn**
The engagement is announced between Gregory Radcliffe, son of Mr Radcliffe McCormick, of Chelsea, *London, and of* Mrs Joan McCormick, of Kensington, London, and Iris Alexandra, second daughter of Mr Mark Winn and the late Mrs Winn, of Buttercrambe, York.

Mr A.J. Quartermaine and Miss S.L. Tabona
The engagement is announced between Andrew James, son of Dr Peter and Dr Luisa Quartermaine, of Exeter, Devon, and Shara Louisa, daughter of Mr and Mrs Barty Z. Tabona, of San Gwann, Malta.

Mr T.A. Tyree and Miss C.E.G. Henshaw
The engagement is announced between Todd, eldest son of Mr *Lamar* Tyree and Mrs Charlotte Tyree, of Atlanta, Georgia, and Caroline, eldest daughter of Brigadier and Mrs Clinton Henshaw, of Winchester, Hampshire.

Mr N.P. Watts and Miss C.C. Loeb
The engagement is announced between Nicholas Paul, younger son of the late Mr and Mrs Basil Watts, of Ascot, Berkshire, and Caroline Christina, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs David Loeb, of Kensington, London, and Woolstone, Oxfordshire.

Mr B.H. Wells and Miss H.R. Marr-Johnson
The engagement is announced between Barnabas, younger son of Mr and Mrs Richard Wells, of Little Witley, Worcestershire, and Rachel, daughter of His Honour Judge and Mrs F.J.M. Marr-Johnson, of Fulham, London.

Mr H.J.A. Wynne-Williams and Miss A.S.K. Mason
The engagement is announced between Harry, son of Mr J.D. Wynne-Williams, of Newmarket, and Mrs D.H.T. Day, of Higham, Suffolk, and Anna, eldest daughter of Mr H.R. Mason, of Bath, and Mrs G. Elliott, of Limoux, France.

Marriage

Surgeon *Lieutenant* J.F. Welch, RN, and Miss M.J. Lees
The marriage took place in Edinburgh, on January 30, 1999, of Surgeon Lieutenant Jamie F. Welch, RN, to Miss Mairi J. Lees. The Rev Nicholas Pnematicatos, RN, officiated.

University news

The Queen's University of Belfast
Queen's University has won research funding of more than £2.3 million.

The latest grants have come from a wide range of sources, including industry, charities, Government departments and the *European Union*.

The funding is for studies across the university's disciplines, from science, engineering, and health sciences to agriculture, the humanities, law and social sciences. The university's Institute of Telemedicine and Telecare has also benefited.

The largest single grant — £266,468 from European Union Framework Funds — has been awarded to Professor Trevor Whittaker of the School of Civil Engineering.

The funding is for work on the first commercial-scale Limpet wave energy module which is being established on the island of *Islay in the Inner Hebrides*.

The package includes awards totalling more than £675,000 for a number of studies in the university's School of Medicine, including research into ageing, leukaemia, bladder tumours and the cardiovascular effects of lipid-lowering therapies.

Among the projects to win funding is a study of gender, atypical work and equality of opportunity in Northern Ireland. Dr Orla Muldoon, Adrian Hallmark, Dr John Kremer and Dr *Jacqueline Reilly of the School of* Psychology at Queen's have received funding of £34,318 from the Equal Opportunities Commission for Northern Ireland for the research.

Conferment of Titles
The title of Professor Emeritus has been conferred on the following:
Dr Philip Burke, Professor of Mathematical Physics 1967-98;
Dr Leslie Clarkson, Professor of Social History 1983-98;
Dr James Dunwoody, Professor of Theoretical Mechanics 1985-98;
Dr Michael McKervey, Professor of Organic Chemistry 1990-98;
Mr Andrew Richardson, Professor *of Orthodontics 1985-97*;
Dr Robin Shanks, Professor of Clinical Pharmacology 1972-77 and Whitla Professor of Therapeutics and Pharmacology 1977-98;
and Dr David Simpson, Professor of Microbiology 1983-97.

PERSONAL COLUMN

Yet, O LORD, you are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand. Isaiah 64.8 (NIV).

BIRTHS

ATTERTON - On February 3rd at The Portland Hospital, to Rhona (née Hall) and Charles, a son, William, a brother for Ella and Edward.

BARKER - On February 2nd at The Portland Hospital, to Vanessa and Grant, a son, Frederick Christopher John.

BERGER - On January 29th at The Portland Hospital, to Ann (née Chomot) and Geoffrey, a daughter, Rachael Jane.

CLAXTON - On February 5th at The Portland Hospital, to April and Jose, a daughter, Ariel, a sister for Joshua and Anjelica.

COMFORT - On January 26th 1999, to Catherine (née Holland) and Philip, a son, William Arthur, a brother for Anna and Lizzie.

DESAI - On February 3rd at The Portland Hospital, to Fiona and Vip, a son, Jay.

FORSYTH - Karen (neé Dickson) and Mitchell are proud to announce the birth of their twin sons Cameron James and Jamie George on 21st January.

GRAHAM - On February 1st, in Oxford, to Louise (née Rowling) and Alastair, a *son, James Alastair*.

HAWKE - On 8th February 1999 to Bronwen (née James) and Edward, a daughter, Alice Julia, at St Mary's Hospital, Manchester.

HOGH - On February 2nd at The Portland Hospital, to Merete and Thomas, twin daughters, Catherine and Josephine, sisters for Rasmus.

HONEY - On February 5th, to Phil and Amanda (née Mead), a son, Samuel Luke Tripp.

JEWELL - On 2nd February 1999 to Helen (née Dart) and Matthew, twin sons, Thomas William and Harry Frederick, brothers for Olivia.

KINSELLA - On 31st January, to Maria (née McCabe) and John, a son, Andrew James *Raymond*, a brother for William.

KNIGHTLY - On February 4th at The Portland Hospital, to Anne Marie and Kevin, *a daughter, Caroline*, a sister for Patrick.

KONNARIS - On February 2nd at The Portland Hospital, to Maria (née Kranou) and Michael, a daughter, Katherine Maria.

LANGLANDS - On February 8th in Croydon to Alexandra (née Baldwin) and Thomas, a daughter, Hannah Amy.

MARTELET - On February 2nd at The Portland Hospital, to Marie and Francois-Regis, a son, Alexandre-Marie, a brother for Alix and Astrid.

McMEEKAN - On 3rd February to Chris (née Harvard) and Simon, a daughter, Cara *Elizabeth*.

MORLEY - On February 5th at The Portland Hospital, to Duano-Li and Gary, a daughter, Sung-Sung Chantal Jade, 7lbs 3oz.

PRITCHARD-GORDON - On February 5th at The Portland Hospital, to Romana (née Morton) and Gavin, a son, Charles Alastair, a brother for Rupert, Paddy and Rosanna.

ROBB - *On January 26th at* The Portland Hospital, to Gillian (née Sellar) and Reid, a daughter, Lucy.

ROBINSON - On 2nd January 1999, to Ann and Adam, a daughter, Alice Emma Ruth, a sister for Felicity and Edward.

RUDA - *On 31st January* 1999, to Cilly and Steve, a daughter, Hollie India Meredith.

SATCHELL - On February 5th at The Portland Hospital, to Samantha (née Angus) and Jonathan, a daughter, Zinnia Grace, a sister for Saskia.

SLATER - On 5th February to Olga and Michael, a daughter, Katarina, a sister for Klara.

TOLCHER - On 3rd February in Solihull, to Ann (née Norris) and Edward, a son, James Edward Michael, a brother for Christopher.

DEATHS

AGATE - Judith Ann on Sunday February 7th died very peacefully at home after a long illness. Beloved wife of Jeffrey, *mother of Simon and Jane* and grandmother of Jamie and Peter. Funeral Service at St John the Baptist Church, St John's, Woking, on Monday February 15th *at 11.30 am. Family* flowers only please.

ALLAN - (Née Mutter) Elizabeth Susan, dearly loved wife of John and mother of Emily and Alistair, died peacefully at home on 7th February 1999. Funeral Service at St Stephen's Church, Dulwich at 1.30 pm on Friday 12th February, followed by a committal at West Norwood Crematorium. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to St Christopher's Hospice and Marie Curie c/o James W. Constable F/D, 55 Honor Oak Park, *London SE23 1EA. tel:* (0181) 291-0811.

BALDWIN - Charles Richard. Aged 43. *Died* 5th February 1999. Husband of Alisa and son of Richard and Mavis Baldwin. Funeral at St John's Crematorium, *Hermitage* Road, Woking at 1530 *on* Friday 12th February 1999. No flowers please. Donations to British Diabetic Association.

BESSON - *Gabriel* on 27th January. Mrs Elisabeth Besson, Mrs Edith Cottin-Besson, Avril and Camille have been mesmerised by the surge of indescribable sympathy on the news of Gabriel's passing. For the splendid farewell you all waved, grateful thanks.

BINNS - Michael, on February 7th aged 44, son of Terry and Mary Binns, much loved husband of Maria Adelaide and wonderful father of Emma and Nico. Thanksgiving Service at St Mary's Parish Church, The Causeway, Horsham on Friday February 12th at 12 noon. *Family flowers only.* Donations if desired *to* Cancer BACUP, c/o Freeman Brothers, 9 North Parade, Horsham RH12 2BP. Tel: 01403 254590.

BRETTELL - On February 6th, Edgar John aged 84 years of Lymington. Dearly *loved husband of* the late Barbara, father of Elizabeth, Susan and Tim, grandfather of Lucy, Anne, Pippa, Sam and Matthew. Private cremation. *Thanksgiving* Service at St Thomas' Church, Lymington on Friday February 12th at 2.30pm. *Family* flowers only, donations if desired, for either the R.N.L.I., Cancer Research, R.S.P.B. or Care for the Family, may be sent c/o F. W. House and Sons, Funeral Directors, Lymington, Hampshire. SO41 9NE.

BURRELL - Peacefully on February 7th 1999, Robert Michael Burrell, aged 56 years. Former Lecturer at the School of Oriental and African Studies in the University of London. Beloved husband of Ann (née Fountain), he will be greatly missed by his family, his many friends and former students around the world. Requiem Mass at All Saints Church, Pin Green, Stevenage on Monday February 15th at 1 pm. No flowers please. Donations, *if desired, to The* Woodlands Trust would be greatly appreciated and may be sent c/o Austins & Sons, 9/11 Letchmore Road, Stevenage SG1 3JH. *Please wear bright colours* to celebrate Michael's life.

DESMOND - J.H.A. (Bob). Father to Michael, Bobby and Nigel. Died peacefully on 8th February in Jersey. Private family cremation. *No flowers please but any* donations to Barnardos.

DIAS - *Norman J., formerly* of Minster Lovell, peacefully on Monday 8th February after a short illness. Husband of the late Margaret, loved father of Michael and Susan *and* grandfather to many. Quiet funeral in Algarve. No flowers, donations to Cancer Research.

DIXON - On February 6th 1999 peacefully at the Royal Surrey County Hospital, Guildford, Surrey. Beryl aged 83 years. Much loved mother of Jeremy, Roger and Joseph. Funeral Service at St Michael And All Angels, Church Lane, Pirbright, Surrey. On Thursday February 18th at 2.30pm followed by Cremation. Floral tributes and enquiries to Woking Funeral Service. Tel:- (01483) 772266.

To place *death notices*, acknowledgements or notices please call 0171 680 6880

EVANS - Harold Arthur Carlyon: on February 6th, beloved husband of Patricia, father of Sally, Michael, Patrick and Rosalind, father-in-law of David, grandfather of Michael and Caroline and great-grandfather of Jake. Formerly Headmaster of Swanbourne House School, Buckinghamshire 1947-1974. Funeral Service at St Mark's Church, Little Common, Bexhill on Monday February 15th at 2.15pm, followed by cremation at Eastbourne. *Flowers or donations if* desired, may be sent to 'St Mark's Church, Bexhill' or 'St Swithun's Church, Swanbourne', c/o Mummery F/D, 31 Devonshire Road, Bexhill-on-Sea, TN40 1AH. Tel 01424-730418.

GILROY - *Elizabeth* Margaret Outram (née Thwaite), aged 83, peacefully at home in Fulham on February 6th 1999; widow of John *Gilroy the celebrated artist*; much beloved mother of Robin Bramley and Jenefer Tatham and stepmother of John Gilroy; adored 'Granny Zabe' to *her grandchildren*: Alexander, Henrietta, Arabella, Felicity, Vicky, James, William, and her great-grandchildren Emily and Charlie. Funeral at Putney Vale *Crematorium* on Wednesday February 17th 1999 at 12 noon. Cut flowers only or donations, if preferred, to Help the Aged. Enquiries to J.H. *Kenyon Ltd. 0171 937* 0757.

GOODFELLOW - John on 8th February 1999, peacefully aged 91 at Leigh, Dorset. Late of Surrey Estate and Nuwara Eliya, Sri Lanka. Beloved husband of the late Nell, devoted *father* of Gilly and Eleanor and grandfather of Tom and Jamie. Funeral service at St Hippolytus, Ryme Intrinseca, Dorset at *2.00pm Wednesday 17th* February. No flowers, donations *if desired to* World Wildlife Fund. Enquiries to 01935 872 131 / 01935 872 982.

GRAUPNER - Rudolf on 8th February aged 92, after 91 robust years. Loved and will be *much missed by his* wife Ruth, his daughter Frances and her husband Stephen, his grandchildren James and William and his sisters-in-law *Peo and Hilda*. Cremation, Golders Green, 3.00 pm Thursday 11th

GRAY - Mary of Yew Tree Cottage, Whitchurch-on-Thames in her 99th year peacefully in hospital on February 7th after a fall at home, widow of Col W. K. Gray DSO, much loved mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. Funeral at St Peter and St Paul, Checkendon on Monday 15th February at 2.30pm. Family flowers only. Donations to Checkendon C. of E. Primary School.

GREGORY - Michael Anthony OBE. Barrister and retired legal advisor for Country Landowners Association. Very much loved by his wife, Pat, his eight children and eleven grandchildren. Died peacefully surrounded by his family after a short illness on 8th February. Requiem Mass at 2pm Monday 15th February at Church of Our Lady, Kings Road, Fleet, Hampshire.

HAIGH - Clifford aged 93 on February 7th peacefully after a short illness following Parkinson's Disease. Dearly loved husband of Elizabeth, devoted father, grandfather and great-grandfather. Funeral at Hawkinge Crematorium, Kent on 13th February at 11.30 am. Family flowers only but donations welcomed by Save the Children Fund c/o Chittendens Funeral Directors, 1 Ingoldsby Road, Folkestone, Kent CT19 6JJ.

HALLIBURTON SMITH - Prudence Latham, aged 94 on 8th February after a long illness borne with dignity and fortitude. Beloved mother, granma and great granma. Service of Thanksgiving St Mary's Church, Calne, Friday 26th February at 2.30pm. No flowers, donations if wished to Bath Cancer Research via E Wootten & Son, 1 North Street, Calne, SN11 0HQ.

To place *death notices*, acknowledgements or notices please call 0171 680 6880

HARRIS - Anne Catherine, born 6th February 1960, died 7th February 1999, in an accident. Much loved daughter of Jacqueline and Don of Kingham, Oxfordshire, sister of Christopher and Caroline, aunt of Daniel. Funeral at St Andrew's Church, Kingham on Saturday 13th February at 2.30pm. *Family flowers only.* Donations (if desired) to Tearfund, 100 Church Road, Teddington, Middlesex, TW11 8QE (a Christian relief and *development charity for* the third world). Memorial Service at St Mark's Church, Battersea Rise, London SW11 on Saturday 20th March at 2.30pm.

JEFFREYS - Daphne Marguerite of Worplesdon, Surrey, died peacefully after a long illness in Kingsmead Nursing Home on February 8th aged 87. Cremation at Worthing Crematorium, Findon, 12 noon Tuesday 16th February. Flowers to *Freeman Bros., 9 North* Parade, Horsham, W. Sussex RH12 2BP. No donations.

KERR - *Peacefully at Borders* General Hospital, Melrose on February 8th 1999, Elizabeth Lorraine (Lorrie) who was a truly exceptional person who *touched the lives of* countless people across the world. Will be sorely missed by family and friends especially George and Sheila. Funeral Service in Mortonhall Crematorium on February 12th at 12.45pm to which all friends are invited. Family flowers only please. Donations if desired to Kelso Hospital, Biggar.

KERSLEY - Mrs Janet, see *Sinclair*.

MACK - Henry Patrick Bradshaw Mack A.F.C. (Paddy) of Antingham, Norfolk on February 7th. Beloved husband of Jennifer and devoted father of Rosanagh, Feargus and Angus. Enquiries and donations for Royal British Legion to Murrell Cork F/D, North Walsham, Norfolk NR28 0DB. Tel 01692 402059.

MACLEAN OF DOCHGARROCH - On February 7th, 1999, the Rev. Donald Allan Lachlan, aged 93, husband of Loraine. Funeral at St Ninian's, Glen Urquhart, on Friday, February 12th, at 11.30 am. No flowers.

MASON - Michael Charles of Calverhall, Shropshire, suddenly on 2nd February, beloved husband of Phyllis. Simple flowers or donations to the R.N.L.I., Poole, Dorset.

MOLD - Eva (Diane) died on 26th January 1999 in hospital in Co. Leitrim, Ireland, after a life of illness and happiness. Her ashes are to be interred in March in Stinsford Church, Dorset, alongside those of her beloved husband. Greatly loved *and missed by her family*. Donations if desired to Cancer Research or Heart Foundation.

NORTH - Corona Deane. February 7th 1999 aged 76, passed away peacefully at her residence Altamont, after a period of illness. Remains were removed to All Saints, Aghade. Service of Thanksgiving on Wednesday 10th February at 3 pm, committal afterwards at God's Acre, Ballybroomhill, Fenagh. "The Lord is my Shepherd".

PELMORE - James Robert. On 5th February 1999 suddenly at home. Loving brother, father and grandfather. *Family* Cremation. A thanksgiving service will be held at St Bartholomew's Church, Haslemere on 6th March 1999 at 2.30 pm. Family *flowers only*.

PITT - Sue (née McLaughlin). Beloved Mother of Joanna and Lauren, passed away quietly on Sunday 7th *February at the Royal* Hampshire County Hospital, Winchester, surrounded by her family. Her funeral service will take place at St Peter's, Hurstbourne Tarrant, near Andover, Hampshire at 11.30am on Saturday 13th February and afterwards at Essebourne Manor, Hurstbourne Tarrant. Flowers or donations, if desired for the Magpie Scanner Appeal, Royal Hants County Hospital, c/o Jno Steel & Son, Chesil House, Winchester. Sleep peacefully Mummy, we love you.

RAE - Allan Alexander Sinclair C.B.E. suddenly on 7th February 1999 in hospital aged 73, of Llanddulas, North Wales, deeply loved and respected husband, father and grandfather. No flowers please. Donations to R.N.L.I. (Abergele Branch). Enquiries and donations to T. Conchar & Sons, 4 Woodland Road West, Colwyn Bay. Telephone: 01492-532206.

SHERMAN - On February 7th suddenly but peacefully at home John Frederick (Freddy) aged 71, beloved husband of Christine and much loved father and grandfather. Enquiries to Jno Steel & Son, Chesil House, Winchester. 01962 844044.

SHINNER - *John Searle on* February 7th 1999, died peacefully at home with *his family* in Betchworth, Surrey following a short illness. Beloved husband of the late Mildred Shinner, brother, father and grandfather. Former Chief Engineer and Manager of East Surrey Water Company. Veteran of 6th Airborne Division R.E. Normandy assault. Funeral Service at St Michael's Church, Betchworth on Wednesday February 17th at 2pm. Flowers or donations c/o Sherlock & Sons, Trellis House, Dorking, RH4 2ES. Tel 01306 882266

SINCLAIR - Janet McLaren, author and ballet critic, died comfortably at home on Friday, 5th February 1999. Funeral was held 9th February 1999 attended by Alex, John and Leo. *Memorial* celebration will be arranged. Donations in memory of Janet for her favoured charity c/o Mr Ed Nickless, 13 Home Close, Harlow, Essex, CM20 3PD.

SOMERVELL - Joanna Barrington. On Thursday, 4th *February*, at St John's Hospice, Lancaster. Dear *sister, sister-in-law*, aunt, and great-aunt of Jonathan, Kristin, Fidelia, Tim, Jackie, Nicky, Karen, Andrew and their families. Cremation at *Lancaster Crematorium* on Monday, 15th February at 2.30pm. All welcome for tea afterwards at Heaves Hotel near Kendal. Family flowers only but donations may be sent c/o Hayes and Parkinson, Captain French Lane, Kendal, LA9 4HS for St John's Hospice and Cancer Care.

SPENCE - On February 6th 1999 peacefully in Beccles, Julian aged 79 years, formerly of The East Anglian Magazine and Mackinnon Mackenzie, India. Husband of Millicent and father of Jonathan, Nigel and Cordelia. Funeral Service at Gorleston Crematorium on Monday February 15th at 3pm. No flowers by request, donations if desired for Shelter can be sent c/o Cossey Funeral Services, 12 Chaucer St, Bungay, NR35 1DT.

St. LEGER PARSONS - David Wyniard Rosse (Gabby), formerly RAF 5 Squadron (Men of the Mohawks), aged 75 years, suddenly on Saturday 6th February 1999, loving and loved husband of Jill and the late Ray and affectionate step father to all Jill's children and grandchildren and a very dear brother to Elizabeth, Jane and John and uncle to David, Caroline, Penelope and James. We all loved him. Private funeral, no flowers please but donations, if desired, to the RAF Benevolent Fund.

STEWART - On Sunday February 7th peacefully in Winchester, Capt W.A. "Gussy" Stewart C.B.E., R.N. (Retd), Submariner and gentleman aged 92 years. Much loved husband of the late Elspeth, father, grandfather and great-grandfather. Funeral Service at St Bartholomew Church, Hyde, Winchester on Tuesday February 16th at 12 noon. Enquiries to Jno. Steel & Son, Chesil House, Winchester. 01962 844044.

STRACHAN - Sheena Mary, OBE, aged 83, peacefully at St Andrews Memorial Hospital on February 7th 1999. Dearly loved aunt of Edward and Joanna, great-aunt of Fiona and Katrina and devoted sister of the late Duncan. Private cremation. Thanksgiving Service and interment of ashes at Crail Parish Church on Friday 26th February at 12.30 pm. Family flowers only. Donations if wished to Cancer Macmillan Relief Fund.

WARD - Simon died suddenly at Croft House N.H. on Monday 8th February 1999 aged 43 years. Husband of Mandy, loving father of Charlotte, Alex and Ed, son of Mary and the late Neville Ward. Will be sadly missed by his family and friends. Funeral Service at St Mary's Church, Little Dunmow on Monday 15th February at 11 am. Family flowers only but donations if desired to 'Chest, Heart & Stroke Association' c/o Daniel Robinson & Sons *Ltd.*, Haslers Lane, Gt. Dunmow, Essex CM6 1XS.

OBITUARIES

SIR DAVID MUIRHEAD

Sir David Muirhead. KCMG, CVO, former Ambassador to Portugal, Peru and Belgium, died on February 3 aged 80. He was born on December 30, 1918.



In appearance swarthy and bulky, David Muirhead looked like the successful owner of one of the great bullrings in Spain or Mexico. He had a touch of arrogance and swagger in his bearing which implied a natural belief in his own capacity to lead. The Spanish flavour of his personality was not accidental. His mother was Mexican and he was born in Mexico. His father was Scottish and worked for the Bank of London and South America.

Muirhead thus brought to his career in the Diplomatic Service a mixture of qualities linked to his ancestry and upbringing: a quick and shrewd intuition; a sensitivity often concealed by gregariousness and bonhomie; a love of ceremonial and uniforms; a strong patriarchal sense of family; good humour and a fondness for company, good food and wine and, at a deeper level, a strong Christian faith which rendered him humble and surprisingly vulnerable.

David Francis Muirhead was educated at Cranbrook School, where he was an able boy and a good athlete, playing rugby for the school. His father lost money in the Depression years and he had to make his own way early in life. He never went to university, which he regretted later on, and he always had an autodidact's exaggerated respect for academic achievement and cleverness, though he was not given to an over-generous view of intellectuals in general or of those with no practical or managerial capacity.

He went from school straight into the City, in the Metal Exchange. Before the outbreak of war he joined the Artists' Rifles, and he was soon commissioned after passing through Sandhurst. He was then recruited by the Special Operations Executive, trained in parachuting in Scotland and sent in April 1941 to Gibraltar where he and the others members of his party were to organise Spanish resistance in the event of a German invasion of Spain.

When it became clear that Hitler would not invade, Muirhead was posted to Madrid as an assistant to the British naval attaché. There, he made contact with Spanish sympathisers to secure their help in operations against German interests in Spain. He also worked on escape routes for SOE agents, escaped prisoners of war and downed aircrew coming over the Pyrenees from France and aiming for the freedom of Gibraltar and beyond. He finished the war as a lieutenant-colonel.

He married the Hon Elspeth Hope-Morley in 1942. He was deeply devoted to his family, and was shattered by his wife's illness and death in 1984. But he cannot always have been an easy husband and father, imbued as he was with a strong strain of the patriarchal and a distaste for deviation from traditional forms. This was counterbalanced by an impish sense of humour and by the huge zest he brought to all his activities. He had especially a love of anniversaries, birthdays and family treats.

In 1946 he joined the Foreign Service. His early years were spent in Latin America, Washington and Brussels, and this led in 1959 to his appointment as head of Foreign Office personnel at a time of reforms and reductions in senior staff. He was a good and decisive chooser of people, though he had his critics, some of whom thought he was guilty of favouritism. But he was fun to work with and had a humane regard for his colleagues. He remained in this influential post for the unusually long period of seven years, a testament to his judgment and dependability.

In 1967 he was appointed Ambassador to Peru, where he was much liked by the Peruvians. He was bilingual in Spanish and had qualities which the Peruvians admired, of gregariousness, a love of storytelling, late nights and a capacity to drink most of them under the table. His natural empathy with people, especially Latin people, his linguistic skills and his love of a good time created an outgoing and friendly atmosphere.

His next appointment was as Ambassador to Portugal, 1970-74, in the declining years of Salazar. He again brought to this post his acute interest in people — he was proud that when the Revolution came he knew many of the new leaders well — and he travelled increasingly in Portugal and its colonies. He ended his career as Ambassador to Belgium, a country for which he had deep affection, having served there earlier in his career and where, as always, he had a host of friends.

David Muirhead was a traditionalist with a deep sense of patriotism. More complex and emotional than he first appeared, he was not at all averse to the great and the good, nor to the protocol of diplomacy. He enjoyed his part in organising the ceremonies for the funeral of Winston Churchill, and on that harsh January day he cut an imposing figure in his diplomatic uniform among the visiting heads of state and envoys.

He relished the post, in retirement, of Special Representative of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and cheerfully accepted some of the tedious and routine aspects of meeting and greeting foreign politicians and diplomats. He was a member of the War Graves Commission, to which he made a notable contribution. He had a most retentive memory, was a formidable bridge player and a good tennis player, with a mean cut shot. He was for some years churchwarden at St Mary Abbots, Kensington, and his religious sense tempered a domineering streak in his nature.

He held the Portugal Grand Cross of the Order of Christ and the Grand Cross of Peru.

He leaves two sons and a daughter, who is the wife of Sir David Gore-Booth, the former British High Commissioner in New Delhi.

ROBERT DOUGLAS



Norman v Saxon: Douglas as de Bracy, at right, in the house of Cedric in *Ivanhoe*, 1951

Robert Douglas, British actor and director, died at his California home on January 11 aged 89. He was born on November 9, 1909.

AN ACTOR who made a virtue of portraying suave villains, Robert Douglas was a familar face on cinema screens in a series of Hollywood swashbucklers in the Forties and Fifties. Whether in the 17th-century Spain of *The Adventures of Don Juan*, the Angevin England of *Ivanhoe* or the Ruritanian fantasy land of *The Prisoner of Zenda*, he brought a consummate professionalism to what he did, ensuring that even if playing a supporting role, he was never in danger of being outshone.

As the Duke of Lorca he certainly spiced up *Don Juan*, the last major appearance of his old friend Errol Flynn, whose talents had by then become eroded almost beyond recognition through his dissipated habits. Douglas's energetic acting contributed to one of the film's most striking scenes, a staircase swordfight with Flynn as the wily Don, which remains one of the classics of the genre. It also established a duration record for a sword duel on screen.

In an *Ivanhoe* in which every other character was threatened with eclipse by the arresting beauty of the young Elizabeth Taylor, he and George Sanders as the ill-intentioned Norman knights Hugh de Bracy and Brian de Bois Guilbert stood their ground better than most of the cast. Certainly they and the sense of menace they conveyed remain in the memory long after Robert Taylor, as the eponymous (and somewhat goody-goody) hero, and Joan Fontaine, the (rather insipid) Saxon heroine Rowena, have faded from it.

Robert Douglas was trained for the stage at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art. He had his debut at the Theatre Royal, Bournemouth, in July 1927 as Bertie Lennox in *The Best People* and, after a season of touring, made his first appearance on the London stage the following summer. In November 1929 he made his debut on Broadway.

Over the next ten years he was busy both in London and New York, playing, among other things, opposite Laurence Olivier in *The Last Enemy*. Having acted the role of Colin Derwent in *Ten Minute Alibi* in January 1933 at the Embassy Theatre, Swiss Cottage, he went into management with Ronald Adam and they presented the classic murder thriller at the Haymarket in February of that year. It was to run for two years.

He had appeared in several British films during the 1930s including *The Blarney Stone* (1933), *London Melody* (1937), *Over the Moon* (1938), in which he played opposite Rex Harrison and Merle Oberon, and *The Lion Has Wings* (1939). But it was after the war, during which he served as a pilot in the Fleet Air Arm, that his screen career really took off, with his return to America and Hollywood where, in 1947, he was put under contract by Warner Bros.

Thereafter he made screen villainy his stock in trade and his list of credits reads like a Hollywood anthology of the period: *Don Juan* (1948); *Homicide* (1949); *Spy Hunt, Kim, Mystery Submarine* (1950); *At Sword's Point* (with Cornell Wilde and Maureen O'Hara), *Ivanhoe, The Prisoner of Zenda* (1952) and many more.

He directed stage plays and acted on television, too, but with the advent of the Sixties he gravitated to directing and producing. Many Warner Bros shows of the period — *77 Sunset Strip, Hawaiian Eye, Maverick* — were directed by him as were episodes of *Medical Center, Quincy, The Streets of San Francisco* and *Columbo* for other companies.

His first marriage, to the actress Dorothy Hyson, was dissolved (and she later married Anthony Quayle). In 1947 Douglas married Suzanne Weldon. She predeceased him, but he is survived by a son and a daughter.

LORD JUSTICE WALLER

Sir George Waller, PC, OBE, Judge of the High Court, Queen's Bench Division, 1965-76, and a Lord Justice of Appeal, 1976-84, died on February 5 aged 87. He was born on August 3, 1911.

IN THE 1960s George Waller was one of a small number of judges whose coming to the Bench seemed to reflect a change in policy about judicial appointments. Before then judges were chosen, with very few exceptions, from the leading London barristers. Ability to conduct a large civil practice in London, however, was not always a suitable qualification for trying criminal and personal injury cases on circuit — which was how the Queen's Bench judges then spent the greater part of their working year.

Waller was not a London practitioner: he was a circuiteer. After his call to the Bar in 1934 he started in practice in Newcastle upon Tyne and until he went on the Bench nearly all his work was on the North Eastern Circuit. There he acquired a far wider experience of the administration of justice than do most London practitioners who tend to specialise in one aspect of the law.

It was this width of experience which made him such a good judge. He brought to the Bench not only a knowledge of how the law works but a knowledge of how the law affects the lives of ordinary people in an industrial society. He understood, far better than most judges, human reactions to stress and crises. He had an ability to feel for those in trouble and difficulties which, together with his open-mindedness towards changing moral standards, made him the very opposite of the common idea of the rigidly moralistic and conservative judge.



George Stanley Waller was educated at Oundle and Queens' College, Cambridge, where he was more distinguished in athletics than examinations. He gained a Blue for rugby and was a member of the University Air Squadron. This led to his serving in Coastal Command throughout the war. By its end he had become a wing commander and had been mentioned in dispatches. In 1945 he was appointed OBE.

After the war he returned to practise at the Bar. He was chairman of the Northern District Valuation Board from 1948 to 1955; a QC in 1954; Recorder of Doncaster 1953-54; of Sunderland 1954-55; of Bradford 1955-57; of Sheffield 1957-61; and of Leeds from 1961 until his appointment to the High Court in 1965.

After he had been appointed to the High Court Bench, with the customary knighthood, the Home Office took advantage of the wide breadth of his social and legal experience. He served on the Parole Board from 1969 to 1972, becoming vice-chairman in 1971. He was a member of the Advisory Council on the Penal System from 1970 to 1975, chairman of the Policy Advisory Committee on Sexual Offences from its formation in 1977 until 1985; and a member of the Criminal Law Revision Committee during the time it was considering sexual offences. To all his committee work he brought humour and humanity.

He was promoted to the Court of Appeal in 1976, simultaneously being sworn of the Privy Council. He retired as a Lord Justice of Appeal in 1984. He was not a great jurist and never deluded himself that he was. He usually got the right answer, even if sometimes it was by intuition rather than by learning.

In 1936 he married Elizabeth Margery ("Peg"), daughter of the 1st Lord Hacking. She survives him, together with a daughter and two sons. The latter have distinguished themselves in the law: one, like his father as a Lord Justice of Appeal, the other as a criminologist in Canada.

DOROTHY MIDDLETON

Dorothy Middleton, writer and geographer, died on February 3 aged 89. She was born on November 9, 1909.

ONE of the generation of able women whose education was sacrificed to that of their brothers, Dorothy Middleton at least had the good fortune to enjoy a literary blossoming in later life. Introduced in the late 1950s by the publisher "Jock" Murray to the letters of the great 19th-century globetrotter Isabella Bird, she suddenly discovered her own academic and writing vocation. There followed her highly successful book *Victorian Lady Travellers* (1965), a series of articles pursuing the same genre, scholarly contributions to the *Dictionary of National Biography* and a succession of lectures that were famous in the geographical community.

It was not a fame acquired as effortlessly as it perhaps appeared. In the late 1950s Dorothy Middleton had joined the Royal Geographical Society, at the suggestion of her brother the then Conservative Home Secretary, R. A. Butler, and in 1959, with A. A. Thomson, she had published the authoritative *Lugard in Africa*.

It was, though, the decision to involve herself with the RGS that was to shape and mould her life. Long before she was elected a fellow in 1971, she had accepted an invitation to become assistant editor of *The Geographical Journal* — a taxing position she was to hold for 20 years.

She got her first foothold on the ladder of the society's hierarchy by serving on its maps and library committee, eventually becoming virtually the doyenne among its members. In 1973, two years after being elected a fellow, she joined the society's council, becoming an RGS vice-president from 1976 to 1979 and then an honorary vice-president from 1987 until her death.



Dorothy Middleton at the time of her marriage

She was one of the most familiar figures in and around the society's grand premises in Kensington Gore, and could even claim to have played her part there in the battle for sex equality: she was one of the first women to be elected to the Geographical Dining Club when — 150 years after its foundation — it ceased to be a purely male preserve. She also represented the RGS on the council of the Hakluyt Society.

Dorothy Butler, as she was before her marriage, was the second daughter and third child of Sir Montagu Butler and his wife Ann. At the time of her birth, her father was the Indian Civil Service Deputy Commissioner in Lahore (he eventually became Governor of the Central Provinces) but it was not in India that she spent her childhood.

Children of the Raj were generally shipped home at the age of six or seven and because she had an older brother needing to go to prep school, Dorothy (or "Dor", as she was always known within the family) was brought home to England in 1911 at the age of two. The outbreak of the First World War meant that there was no question of going back — and, in any event, their father had also returned home in 1912 in order to become secretary to a Royal Commission on the Indian Public Services.

Despite her subsequent interests, her formative years were spent very much in the Home Counties. She went to a girls' boarding school but, although she and her elder sister Iris both showed marked ability, there seems to have been no suggestion that either of them should go to a university — if only because all the money that was available was needed to send Rab Butler (and later his younger brother Jock) to Cambridge. The nearest Dorothy got to a university was when, as a young woman, she went to live in Cambridge, where her father had become Master of Pembroke College.

In 1938, just before the war — during which she worked for the Central Office of Information — she married Laurence Middleton, the senior partner in his firm of family solicitors. There were no children and he died in 1983. She is survived by her elder sister, Iris Portal.

A New Voyage of Sindbad the Sailor

Chapter XII.

Why the monster Degial would not allow his guards either food or board wages: the political consequences of regular meals: Degial makes a speech, and Sindbad lays a deep plan.

ON THIS DAY

February 10, 1837

The last in a series of articles by Benjamin Disraeli. The future Prime Minister had impressed the Editor with his political letters signed "Runnymede" in 1836. The "Sindbad" commentaries with public personages and events concealed in allegory were not a success.

I had now been upwards of a month in Kabous, or the beautiful Isle of Blunders, that country so favoured by a beneficent nature, but which fate had destined to become the flaming and ensanguined scene of the atrocities of the arch-monster Degial. I confess that when I meditated on the apparent impossibility of achieving the task which I had undertaken, which, it will be remembered, was no less than to extract forty hairs from his prodigious tail, and recollected the important results which were dependent on its consummation, I grew nervous and dispirited. Ashamed to show my face again at the Court of the good and suffering King Mihrage, and disgusted with my prolonged and hopeless residence in the domains of Degial, I could not refrain at times from sighing for some ship to enter its port, by which I might escape back to Bagdad; but such were the terror and dismay which the rule of Degial had universally occasioned, that the foreign commerce of Kabous, as well as its internal trade, had entirely dwindled away, and, with the exception of a few vessels from the kingdom I had recently quitted, the island was rarely visited.

Although Degial himself was now undisputed master of the whole island, with the exception of the camp in the northern part, in which the true believers were intrenched, and although the metropolis and all its splendour was completely at his disposal, nevertheless faithful to his old and native habits, Degial preferred wallowing in the gloomy and filthy sty in which he had crouched in his days of restriction to establishing himself in the viceregal palace, the civilized conveniences of which only troubled and trammelled him. The only difference he made in his mode of life was, directing that the most exquisite repasts should be furnished daily for him by the Government cooks, and nothing delighted him more than to gorge his coarse appetite with all the refined inventions of Moslem cookery, and drink to the health of Allah and the Prophet in the choicest wines of Persia.

It was in a vast cavern on the sea-shore, surrounded by wrecks, the contemplation of which always afforded him the most lively satisfaction, and the bleaching bones of the victims of the tempest, which he occasionally flung at the heads of any of his attendants who displeased him, that the monster was accustomed to pamper his rude palate and his gross paunch with the levied delicacies of the whole isle, and after glutting himself to repletion, to sink into slumbers whose unhealthy and agitated visions filled his mind with fresh combinations of terror and torture. This was the moment to assail him — to steal into his noisome residence and pluck the fatal hairs that were the talisman of his power. But the cavern on every side was surrounded by his wild Dives, and to penetrate their ranks with impunity was evidently possible . . .

NEWS

Ethnic quotas for police forces

Jack Straw is ordering chief constables to treble black and Asian recruitment as part of an effort to salvage the reputation of the police before the Stephen Lawrence inquiry report is published.

A national target of 7 per cent of officers from ethnic minorities will be imposed with forces required to introduce quotas, even in areas that are overwhelmingly white. The Home Secretary also intends to punish officers convicted of serious disciplinary offences by cutting their pensions..........Page 1

Blair attack on arms report

Damning criticism by a Commons committee of the Foreign Office and its most senior official over their behaviour in the arms-to-Africa affair was contemptuously swept aside by Tony Blair and Robin Cook yesterday..........Pages 1, 8

Ammunition crisis

The Armed Forces may have to rely on foreign suppliers for all its ammunition stocks after British Aerospace gave warning that its Royal Ordnance factories could close in six months..........Page 2

Asylum housing

Jack Straw is to order local authorities to make empty houses *and hostels available for asylum-seekers*..........Page 4

Much Ado

A British film, *Shakespeare in Love* stole the limelight at the Oscar nominations with 13, including the most coveted categories of Best Picture, Screenplay and Director..........Page 1

War crimes trial

Britain's first war crimes trial was told that the 77-year-old man in court helped to kill Jews after embracing "with enthusiasm" the Nazi ideology..........Page 3

Meningitis alert

Doctors will not know for nearly a week whether they have contained an outbreak of meningococcal meningitis that has killed three people in one town . Page 5

Better schools

State schools have achieved a big improvement in standards, despite there still being up to 15,000 incompetent teachers, said the Chief Inspector of Schools Page 6

Pop as art

A museum is to open next month with the aim of changing people's perception of pop music. Instead *of being seen as a filthy noise that* parents ask their children to turn down, it will be presented as a genuine art form..........Page 7

Nato holds back

Robin Cook dashed the hopes of *Albanian delegates at the Kosovo* peace conference by telling them that Nato troops will not enter the province until an agreement that includes Belgrade..........Page 9

EU rebel fight

The right of a Eurocrat to dissent is to be tested in the European Court today when it hears a claim for wrongful dismissal *from* Bernard Connolly who tried to "blow the whistle" on the project for monetary union..........Page 10

Olympic corruption

Three top Salt Lake City Olympic officials were identified *yesterday* as lynchpins in the corruption scandal that has clouded the future of the 2002 Winter Games and the entire Olympic movement..........Page 11

Jordan worry

Iraq announced that Jordan's untried new ruler, King Abdullah II, *is seeking to strengthen ties with* Baghdad, sending waves of apprehension through Western embassies in Amman..........Page 12

London wins EU wealth crown

Central London is the richest area in the European Union. The 2.7 million residents in the heart of the capital enjoy wealth more than twice the rate of the EU average, a survey reported. *However, the contrast between the capital and the rest of the* UK was marked. Britain has the biggest disparities and is 10th out of 15 in the EU wealth league..........Page 1



After the heaviest snowfalls in Switzerland since 1984, a woman walks her dog through the calm beauty of Waltensburg yesterday. Page 4

BUSINESS

Job losses: SmithKline Beecham, the pharmaceutical group vulnerable to a takeover, announced plans to cut 3,000 jobs worldwide in a cost-cutting campaign..........Page 21

BA difficulties: Lord Marshall of Knightsbridge, the chairman of British Airways, said that difficulties are unlikely to improve in the foreseeable future..........Page 21

Chief sacked: Vaux, the Sunderland-based brewing and hotel group, was the subject of renewed takeover speculation after the sack*ing of its chief executive following a* boardroom feud..........Page 21

Markets: The FTSE 100 index fell 55.00 to 5779.9. The pound rose 0.38 cents to \$1.6365 but fell 0.15p against the euro to 69.04p. The index remained at 100.6..........Page 24

SPORT

Football: Lee Dixon, the 35-year-old Arsenal defender, was stunned by his recall to the England team for tonight's match against world champions France..........Page 40

Racing: Teeton Mill, winner of the King George VI Chase at Kempton recently, is top-weight and favourite for the Martell Grand National on April 10..........Page 35

Tennis: Tim Henman scored a quickfire first-round victory over Zimbabwean Wayne Black in the Dubai Open..........Page 37

Rugby union: *Millionaire Sir John* Hall is pulling out of Newcastle Falcons, the Allied Dunbar Premiership champions. Sir John has become increasingly disillusioned with the relationship with the Rugby Football Union..........Page 37

ARTS

Stars crossed: Claire Martin is typical of the new breed of jazz singers who are preserving the classics while also crossing over boldly into pop territory..........Page 31

Rising star: Actress Sarah Smart won acclaim for "the most nerve-racking day" of her life, improvising in BBC2's *Trial By Jury* series. Now she wants more challenging parts..........Page 31

Film buff: The 29-year-old British artist Steve McQueen is raising his profile with a one-man show of films, sculpture and photography at the ICA..........Page 32

Nuclear fizz: After scoring a hit last year at the National Theatre, Michael Frayn's masterly Second World War play *Copenhagen* transfers to the West End..........Page 33

FEATURES

Modernist: In choosing to depart *with minimal attention. Dame Iris* was at the vanguard of a modern movement..........Page 13

Rocket science: How the creation of N_3, an atomic freak of nature, promises unexpected advances in rocket propellants..........Page 14

Nigel Hawkes: "The evidence linking heart disease to a common bug is growing". Plus, solar power breakthrough and the pecking order for preening..........Page 14

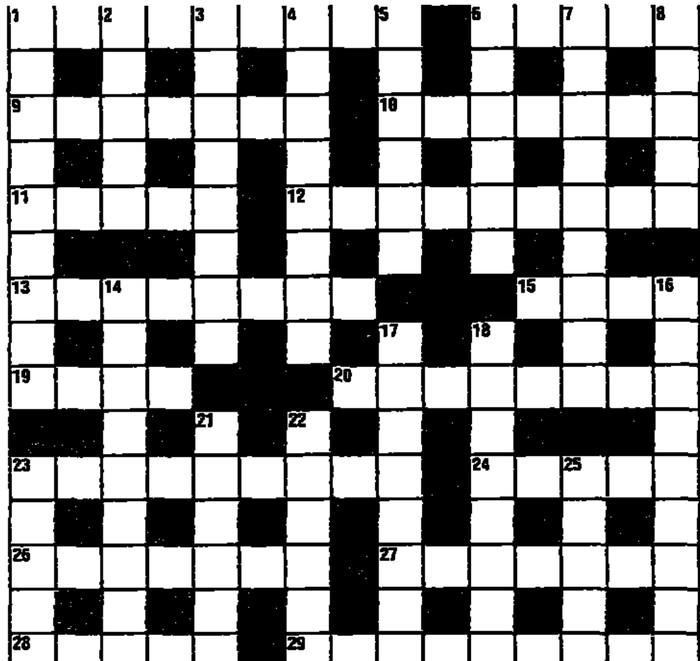
No idea: "We men have absolutely *no idea of what women really want* from us so it seems churlish to make specific requests of our own," says James Brown..........Page 15

Price gap: Why a Georgian house can cost anything from £250,000 to £1.15 million, in *People & Property*.

Energy efficiency: Cutting fuel consumption by making homes more cost-effective..........Pages 28, 29

There is evidence that Mr Mugabe may be persuaded to pull back if he *is subjected to pressure.* His attempts to confiscate white farms had a disastrous impact on the national economy. He should now be pressured to accept the rule of law on press freedoms

— *The Sydney Morning Herald*



TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

■ **FILMS**

Roberto Benigni directs and stars — here with Nicoletta Braschi — in *Life is Beautiful*

■ **BOOKS**

Argue with me if you can: Gore Vidal is issuing a dare, says Erica Wagner

RADIO & TV

Preview: Wronged partners confront betrayal: *Inside Story* (BBC1, 10.15). **Review:** Joe Joseph finds salesmen told not to think because thinking is negative..........Pages 38, 39

OPINION

False asylum

The Home Secretary, Jack Straw, deserves credit for confronting a treacherous issue before it becomes dangerously divisive..........Page 17

Pass the parcel

The sudden zeal of ministers to defend their mandarins' honour will amuse many in the Foreign Office. They will recall Cook's haste to disown his officials over the Sierra Leone affair..........Page 17

Rock of ages

Pop music used to be sung by the young to outrage the old. Now it is sung by the old to embarrass the young..........Page 17

COLUMNS

SIMON JENKINS

The proper question for a select committee is, what on earth were we doing meddling in Sierra Leone? How much of the blood now being shed in that miserable country is on Britain's hands?..........Page 16

BRONWEN MADDOX

An astounding year in American politics has left as many losers as winners. Most of all, there are scores of plain victims, with privacy and family finances now shattered..........Page 16

ALAN COREN

On the lonely pavement, I could slip from my coat-pocket a pack of Silk Cut whose titchy golden escutcheon would catch the moonlight, lion and unicorn rampant to assure me that what I was about to ignite had been personally appointed by my sovereign lady? Not smoke? Dear God, it seemed an act of treason to abstain!..........Page 16

OBITUARIES

Sir David Muirhead, ambassador; **Robert Douglas,** actor; **Lord Justice Waller; Dorothy Middleton,** geographer..........Page 19

LETTERS

Kosovo crisis; newspaper regulation; Lords reform; nuclear power and "clean" energy; alcohol and air rage; travel to Mars..........Page 17

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 21,023

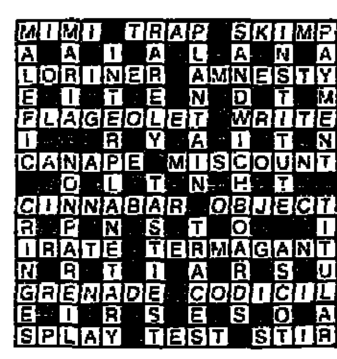
ACROSS

1 Among shop goods to clear, one kind of fabric (9).
6 Severely criticise book's ending (5).
9 Possibly a red display of data on computer (4-3).
10 Scope that can give almost clear sight (7).
11 What twitcher may do, spotting swallow's tail in tree (5).
12 *Barman's extra charge for a cold* drink (9).
13 One caught and bowled? (8).
15 Withdraw stopper and have a draught (4).
19 Small child's modest contribution (4).
20 What's woolly and wild? Search me! (8).
23 One prop shifting gets a faulty pass (9).
24 It moves downstream like a beaver, say (5).
26 One engaged in keelhauling? (7).
27 Recipe cooked to accommodate high-class person of refined taste (7).
28 Like a noble chap caught in double bind (5).
29 Needing sleep, including slightly disturbed lie-in, to be bouncy (9).

DOWN

1 Ploy involving target as ordered by military leader (9).
2 Round on, scold and harangue? (5).
3 Stop work – or strike cancelled? (5,3).
4 Note a holidaymaker shedding nothing? Quite the opposite! (8).
5 Row around river, delivering warning (3-3).
6 Part of rifle butt (6).
7 Modern music in a police building (4,5).
8 Fibres about to be set up for loom (5).
14 Heavy charge, lit, exploded (9).
16 Sounds very like chief executive's initial ruling (9).
17 *Jailbird?* (8).
18 Amount due for footwear – a type of wader (8).
21 Colt may give such a kick (6).
22 *Baseball player hit repeatedly* (6).
23 Spotted talking and put in one's place (5).
25 Scoop? Go to press right away! (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 21,022



Times Two Crossword, page 40

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HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sun rises: 7.42 am Sun sets: 5.05 pm

Moon sets: 11.55 am Moon rises: 2.42 am

New moon February 16

London 5.05 pm to 7.22 am
Bristol 5.16 pm to 7.32 am
Edinburgh 5.08 pm to 7.49 am
Manchester 5.09 pm to 7.37 am
Penzance 5.31 pm to 7.41 am

FORECAST

☐ **General:** a very cold and frosty start. Good sunny spells in much of England and Wales. Wintry showers will move across Irish Sea coasts, heavy snow showers likely in coastal parts of Yorkshire, E Anglia and Kent. Southern and eastern Scotland very cold, coastal snow showers will clear to leave sunny spells. W Scotland and N Ireland will start frosty, cloudier later with drizzle in northwest. Tonight snow showers along North Sea coast, western coasts of Scotland and N Ireland cloudy, elsewhere, long clear spells and a widespread frost

☐ **London, Cent S, NW, Cent N England, Midlands, Chl Is, Lakes, IoM:** mainly dry, sunny, cold. Fresh NW wind. Max 4C (39F).

☐ **SE, E, NE England, E Anglia:** some sunshine, very cold with snow showers towards coast. Fresh north to NW wind. Max 4C (39F)

☐ **SW England, Wales:** wintry showers near coasts, elsewhere dry, sunny. Fresh NW wind. Max 6C (43F).

☐ **Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, SW Scotland, Glasgow:** mainly dry, sunny spells; rather cold. Fresh NW wind at first. Max 5C (41F).

☐ **Abdeen, Cent Highlands, Mry Frth, Orkny, Shetld:** a few sunny spells, show showers easing off later. Fresh NW wind. Max 4C (39F).

☐ **NE, NW Scotland, Argyll:** sunny spells, cloudier later. Mod NW wind. Max 5C (41F).

☐ **N Ireland:** cold, frosty start. Some sun; cloudy later. Mod NW wind. Max 6C (43F).

☐ *Irish Rep:* some sun; cloudy, a few showers in W. Light/mod NW wind. Max 5C (41F)

☐ **Outlook:** cold in south with overnight frost. Milder and cloudy elsewhere eventually; rain in western Scotland and Northern Ireland.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

24 hrs to 5 pm, b = bright; c = cloud; d = drizzle; ds = dust storm; du = dull; f = fair; fg = fog; g = gales; h = hail; r = rain; sh = shower; sl = sleet; s = sun; t = thunder

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	F	
Aberdeen	5.3	0.18	1	34	sn
Anglesey	2.5	0.08	5	41	sn
Aspatria	7.7	-	3	37	s
Aviemore	3.8	0.04	0	32	sn
Belfast	6.1	0.03	3	37	sn
Birmingham	7.2	0.01	2	36	s
Bognor R	9.0	0.01	3	37	s
Bournemth	8.6	0.01	4	39	s
Bristol	9.0	-	5	41	s
Buxton	7.2	-	1	34	s
Cardiff	7.8	0.01	6	43	s
Clacton	7.7	0.01	2	36	s
Cleethorpes	5.6	0.17	2	36	sn
Colwyn Bay	5.9	0.01	4	39	s
Cromer	2.3	0.07	3	37	sn
Eastbourne	6.0	0.14	3	37	s
Edinburgh	8.2	-	3	37	s
Eskdalemuir	7.4	0.01	1	34	sn
Exmouth	8.0	0.01	4	39	sn
Fishguard	2.8	0.20	3	37	sn
Folkestone	7.9	0.14	3	37	s
Glasgow	8.1	-	4	39	s
Hastings	5.7	0.19	3	37	s
Hayling I	3.7	0.01	4	39	s
Herne Bay	3.0	0.05	3	37	s
Hove	8.4	0.01	4	39	s
Hunstanton	4.8	0.32	2	36	s
Isle of Man	6.7	0.02	5	41	n
Isle of Wight	-	0.01	3	37	s
Kinloss	1.4	0.09	1	34	sn
Leeds	7.9	0.01	3	37	s
Lerwick	2.8	0.58	2	36	sn
Littlehampton	8.1	0.06	3	37	s
London	7.3	0.01	3	37	s
Lowestoft	1.7	0.19	3	37	sn
Manchester	8.1	-	4	39	s
Margate	4.6	0.04	3	37	b
Morecambe	7.5	-	3	37	s
Newquay	7.0	0.07	5	41	sn
Norwich	2.5	0.07	3	37	sn
Oxford	8.9	-	3	37	s
Penzance	7.3	0.04	7	45	s
Poole	8.0	0.01	4	39	s
Prestatyn	6.6	-	4	39	s
Ross on Wye	8.1	-	0	32	s
Saunton Sands	5.1	0.03	6	43	s
Scarborough	5.1	0.20	1	34	s
Shrewsbury	7.5	0.01	3	37	sn
Skegness	6.6	0.05	2	36	sn
Southend	7.0	-	2	36	b
Stornoway	4.5	0.12	2	36	sn
Swanage	8.5	0.01	4	39	s
Teignmouth	8.9	0.04	5	41	s
Tenby	5.7	0.05	4	39	sh
Tiree	4.8	0.06	4	39	sn
Torquay	8.6	0.36	6	43	s

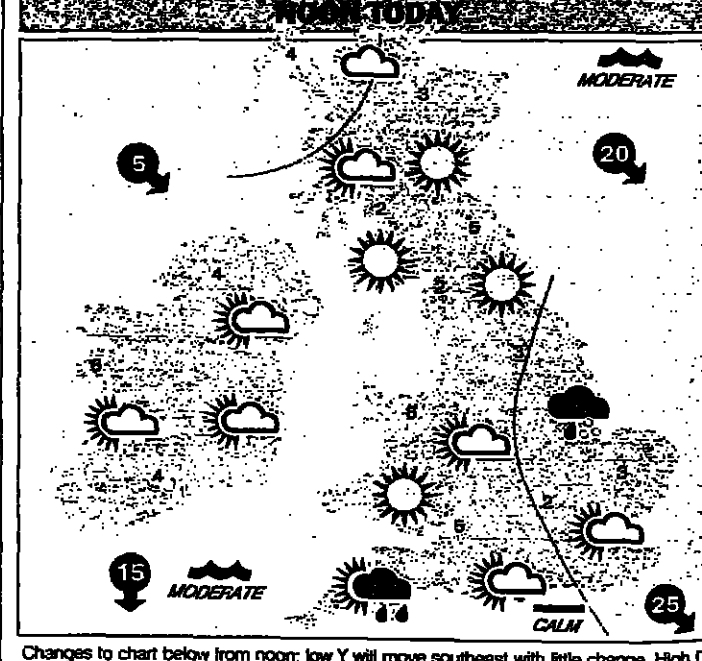
Yesterday: highest day max: Penzance 7C (45F); lowest day max: Loch Glascarnoch, Highland -1C (30F); highest rainfall: Lerwick 0.58in; most sun: Bognor Regis, and Bristol, 9.0hr

ABROAD

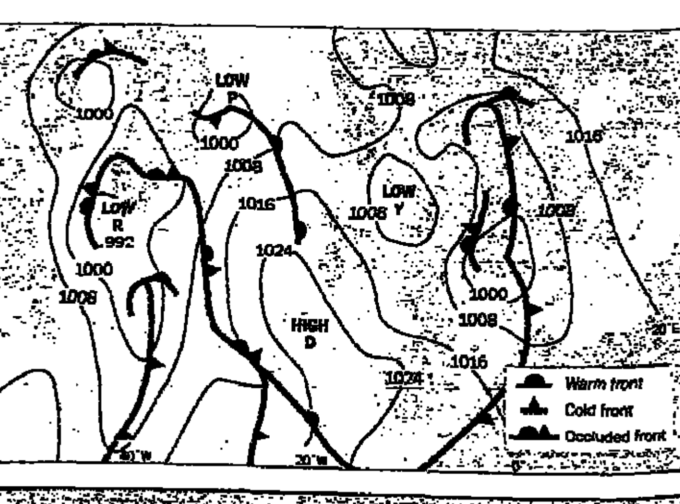
	C	F	
Ajaccio	11	52	f
Akrotiri	15	59	f
Alexdria	18	64	s
Algiers	15	59	c
Amsterdm	2	36	c
Athens	15	59	c
Bahrain	24	75	s
Bangkok	31	88	s
Barbados	26	79	c
Barcelona	11	52	f
Beijing	12	54	s
Beirut	15	59	f
Belgrade	1	34	c
Berlin	1	34	f
Bermuda	23	73	f
Biarritz	10	50	c
Bordeaux	8	46	r
Brussels	1	34	c
Budapest	3	37	f
B Aires	25	77	s
Cairo	13	54	s
Cape Tn	23	73	s
Chicago	3	37	f
Ch'church	-		
Cologne	1	34	c
C'phagn	-1	30	f
Corfu	14	57	f
Dublin	3	37	f
Dubrovnik	6	43	r
Faro	15	59	s
Florence	7	45	s
Frankfurt	2	36	f
Funchal	17	63	c
Geneva	0	32	f
Gibraltar	16	61	s
Helsinki	-20	-4	f
Hong K	22	72	s
Innsbruck	-2	28	c
Istanbul	7	45	s
Jeddah	30	86	s
Jo'burg	22	72	f
L Palmas	21	70	f
Le Touquet	3	37	f
Lisbon	14	57	s
Locarno	5	41	f
L Angeles	13	55	f
Luxembg	0	32	f
Luxor	4	39	c
Madrid	10	50	s
Majorca	13	55	f
Malaga	16	61	s
Malta	16	61	s
Melbourne	17	63	s
Mexico C	x		
Miami	25	77	s
Milan	8	46	s
Montreal	-8	18	s
Moscow	-14	7	s
Munich	-2	28	sn
Nairobi	x		
Naples	10	50	c
N Delhi	14	57	r
N York	1	34	s
Nice	11	52	s
Oslo	-9	15	c
Paris	2	36	sn
Perth	35	95	f
Prague	-2	28	c
Reykjavik	-7	19	s
Rhodes	13	55	f
Rio de J	32	90	f
Riyadh	30	86	s
Rome	10	50	s
Salzburg	-3	27	sn
S Frisco	13	55	f
Santiago	31	88	s
S Paulo	x		
Seoul	9	48	s
Singapore	29	84	c
Stockholm	-8	18	s
Strasb'rg	2	36	f
Sydney	20	68	c
Tangier	15	59	f
Tel Aviv	15	59	f
Tenerife	19	66	f
Tokyo	14	57	s
Toronto	-1	30	s
Tunis	13	55	f
Valencia	16	61	f
Vancver	4	39	s
Venice	8	46	s
Vienna	2	36	c
Warsaw	-2	28	sn
Washton	6	43	f
Wellngton	20	68	x
Zurich	-2	28	sn

Temperatures at midday local time. x = not available

NOON TODAY



Changes to chart below from noon: low Y will move southeast with little change. High D will drift south and build. Low P and complex low R will both move northeast and deepen



HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
Aberdeen	8:31	3.3	21:08	3.4
Avonmouth	1:03	9.4	13:39	9.4
Belfast	6:05	2.8	18:33	2.9
Cardiff	0:49	8.9	13:25	8.9
Devonport	-	-	12:30	4.3
Dover	5:44	5.2	18:31	5.0
Dublin	6:53	3.3	19:34	3.3
Falmouth	-	-	12:01	4.1
Greenock	6:53	2.6	18:48	2.6
Harwich	6:02	3.0	18:46	3.0
Holyhead	5:18	4.3	17:54	4.3
Hull (Albert D)	0:33	7.0	13:16	6.9
Ilfracombe	0:12	6.6	12:46	6.8
King's Lynn	0:46	4.6	13:54	4.5
Leith	9:30	4.3	22:08	4.3
Liverpool	5:54	7.1	18:31	7.0
London Bridge	8:27	5.6	20:59	5.7
Lowestoft	4:09	2.1	17:01	2.1
Margate	6:38	3.8	19:18	3.8
Milford Haven	0:35	5.0	13:09	5.0
Newquay	-	-	12:10	5.1
Oban	0:47	2.9	13:11	2.9
Penzance	11:45	4.1	-	-
Portland	0:27	1.2	12:37	1.2
Portsmouth	6:18	3.7	18:58	3.6
Shoreham	5:47	4.6	18:23	4.5
Southampton	5:43	3.7	18:24	3.5
Swansea	0:40	9.9	13:15	9.9
Tees	10:52	8.8	23:28	8.8
Walton-On-Naze	6:06	3.3	18:45	3.2

All times GMT. Heights in metres.

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Meet the new Sensation
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BUSINESS • LAW • SPORT • ARTS • TELEVISION

THE TIMES

2



Noel jazzes it up
Arts, Page 31

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 10 1999

SmithKline Beecham poised to shed 3,000

By Paul Durman

SMITHKLINE BEECHAM, the pharmaceutical group seen as vulnerable to a takeover, yesterday unveiled a *wide-ranging shake-up* that will include the loss of 3,000 jobs and the sale of businesses worth $2 billion (£1.2 billion).

Jan Leschly, chief executive, pledged the group to make savings of £200 million a year by 2002 — and to increase its underlying earnings by 13 per cent this year, before accelerating to "mid- to high-teens growth" in 2000 and 2001.

The sales of Diversified Pharmaceutical Services for $700 million and of 70 per cent of SB Clinical Laboratories for $1.025 billion will reduce the group to its biggest and most profitable businesses in pharmaceuticals and consumer healthcare.

Mr Leschly reiterated his confidence in a strong, independent future for SB, which has been questioned since the collapse of its proposed merger with Glaxo Wellcome a year ago. He said: "We are a stronger company, we are focused more than ever on consumers and pharmaceuticals, and we have retained our access to valuable data [from DPS and Clinical Laboratories]."

He added: "We are not talking to anybody, we are not planning to talk to anybody. The discussions with Glaxo Wellcome are behind us."

SB's shares rose 33p to 831½p, although the 6 per cent rise in annual pre-tax profits to £1.7 billion it reported was slightly below the consensus of forecasts. Analysts remain convinced of the potential for further deals between the world's leading drug companies.

Most of the 3,000 jobs will be lost in manufacturing, as SB closes or sells some of its 67 plants around the world to create "centres of excellence". The company would not spell out the likely impact on the UK.

The efficiency drive, which will also include global purchasing agreements, will cost £750 million to implement over four years. The first £90 million, including £38 million of asset write-offs, were charged against the 1998 results.

SB also lost £446 million after tax on the sale of DPS, the US drug purchasing manager that Mr Leschly bought for $2.3 billion shortly after becoming chief executive in 1994. DPS, which lost £32 million last year, will be acquired by Express Scripts, a similarly sized rival. Mr Leschly said that SB had "achieved value" through its ownership of DPS.

Clinical Laboratories, the American blood and urine-testing business, will be sold to Quest Diagnostics, though SB will retain a 29.5 per cent stake. Mr Leschly said this would allow the group to benefit from the "major synergies" from the deal.

The savings will allow SB to pump more money into research and development, where spending represented 19 per cent of pharmaceutical sales in last quarter of 1998.

Excluding currencies, SB's results represented earnings and profit growth of 10 per cent, although underlying pre-tax profits grew by only 7 per cent to £518 million in the final quarter. Pharmaceutical profits grew 7 per cent to £1.3 billion, led by the 21 per cent growth from Seroxat/Paxil, the anti-depressant, sales of which topped £1 billion. However, after a bad fourth quarter, consumer healthcare profits slipped 3 per cent to £385 million.

SB is paying an interim dividend of 3.66p, a 10 per cent increase.

ANDRE CAMARA



Jan Leschly, chief executive, who committed SmithKline Beecham to an independent future

Sacking of Vaux chief renews talk of takeover

By Dominic Walsh

VAUX, the brewing and hotel group based in Sunderland, was the subject of renewed takeover speculation last night after the shock sacking of its chief executive and finance director after a boardroom feud.

In a terse statement, the group said that Martin Grant, chief executive since June, and Neal Gossage had "left the company with immediate effect and have ceased to be directors". Peter Catesby, the managing director of its Swallow Hotels division, has been appointed group chief executive.

Analysts believe that the *departures could prompt* interest from rival hoteliers, including David Michels, the Stakis chief executive. Mr Michels made an unsuccessful attempt to buy the company last year and observers believe that the forthcoming sale of Stakis to Ladbroke need not be a barrier to a £400 million bid for Vaux.

The clash at Vaux is understood to relate to the board's recent decision to name a management buyout team as preferred bidder for the two breweries and 350 tenanted pubs put up for sale in September. The MBO, led by Frank Nicholson, brother of the group's chairman, Sir Paul Nicholson, is worth an estimated £70 million and is backed by Alchemy Partners, the venture capitalist.

Mr Nicholson, who has been given a four-week period of exclusivity in which to conclude a deal, was the only bidder for the entire package, the only other substantial bid being one of about £15 million from its close neighbour, Mansfield Brewery, for a package of 115 pubs and the Wards Brewery in Sheffield, which would have been closed.

Messrs Grant and Gossage are said to have favoured the Mansfield deal, which would have meant Vaux retaining the other 235 pubs and closing the Sunderland brewery for redevelopment — a controversial decision given the implications for jobs in an area already badly hit by the manufacturing crisis. The pair are said to have argued that such a move, allied to a new beer supply agreement with one of the big brewers, would have been worth £25 million more than the MBO bid.

Although the decision to go with the MBO was taken by a sale committee consisting of the independent non-executive directors and the group's advisers, BT Alex Brown and Noble Grossart, the two men are said to have privately approached some of Vaux's biggest institutional shareholders to express their unhappiness with the decision.

A source said last night: "This had been brewing for some time. Grant's decision to centralise the running of the company rubbed people up the wrong way, and he never felt comfortable with Vaux's northeastern culture. Their decision to go to institutions was viewed as going behind the backs of the rest of the board."

Tempus, page 24

Cordiant in the spotlight as Scott moves up

By Jason Nissé

SPECULATION mounted yesterday about the future of Cordiant Communications Corporation, the advertising group that split from Saatchi & Saatchi a year ago, after Charles Scott moved up to executive chairman.

Cordiant said Mr Scott, non-executive chairman until yesterday, was now having to devote more time to the company. Four years ago a bitter feud between Mr Scott and the Saatchi brothers — Lord Saatchi and his brother Charles — led to their departure from the company they founded.

Yesterday Cordiant denied this latest move would have any impact on Mr Scott's professional relationship with Michael Bungey, the chief executive of Cordiant. A spokesman said Mr Scott was concentrating on investor relations and had to spend at least one more day a week at Cordiant.

The company has been at the centre of bid speculation, which has linked it with both True North, the US advertising group, and WPP, the owner of Ogilvy & Mather and J Walter Thompson. Cordiant has denied it has been in any takeover talks.

It also has two shareholders well known for their activism. David Herro, the Chicago fund manager who played a key role in the ousting of Lord Saatchi, holds a 12 per cent stake. Phillips & Drew, the fund manager that backed the ousting of David Montgomery at Mirror Group, has 22.8 per cent.

City analysts have noted that companies in which P&D has a large stake, such as Mirror, Wembley, MEPC, Booker and Sears, have been the subject of bid approaches in recent months, with P&D seen as a keen seller.

Business Today



Forger's dream
Counterfeiters ready for arrival of euro notes
Page 25

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FTSE 100	5779.9	(-55.0)
Yield	2.78%	
FTSE All Share	2670.65	(-22.20)
Nikkei	13902.66	(-89.33)
New York:		
Dow Jones	9212.59	(-78.52)*
S&P Composite	1228.43	(-15.34)*

US RATE

Federal Funds	[illegible]*	([illegible])
Long bond	[illegible]*	([illegible])
Yield	5.31%*	(5.35%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth interbank	[illegible]	([illegible])
Liffe long gilt future (Mar)	118.70	(118.30)

STERLING

New York:		
$	1.6357*	(1.6392)
London:		
$	1.6368	(1.6327)
€	1.4485	(1.4515)
SFr	2.3188	(2.3202)
Yen	187.22	(185.66)
£ Index	100.5	(100.6)

DOLLAR

London:		
€	1.1301*	(1.1322)
SFr	1.4177*	(1.4160)
Yen	114.42*	(114.65)
$ index	104.9	(104.8)

Tokyo close Yen 114.89

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Apr)	$10.30	($10.30)

GOLD

London close	$287.05	($289.75)

* denotes midday trading prices

Exchange rates ... Page 22

BA's difficulties set to continue, says Marshall

By Robert Cole, City Correspondent

LORD MARSHALL of Knightsbridge, the chairman of British Airways, said yesterday that difficulties in the airline business are unlikely to improve in the foreseeable future.

The comments came as the airline posted a quarterly pretax loss for the first time in four years. BA lost £75 million for the three months to December 31. In the comparable third quarter of the previous year it made a profit of £80 million.

The economic turmoil in Asia and BA's dependence on business travel traffic put pressure on the company's figures.

Weakness in the Far East, said the company, has destroyed demand for flights there, prompting rival airlines to deploy more aircraft in Europe and the US. This increased capacity on the transatlantic routes and led to price cutting.

The key statistic measuring revenue per passenger kilometre travelled fell nearly 12 per cent in the quarter.

Lord Marshall said: "The situation is not likely to improve materially in the short term."

The overall pre-tax loss was exaggerated by movements in the yen inflating the size of BA's borrowings in Japan.

In the City, where analysts had expected worse news, the shares rose 7¼p to 388¾p

Commentary, page 23

Diller creates $20bn online retail combine

From Oliver August in New York

USA NETWORKS, the American entertainment company run by Barry Diller, is creating a new online retailing powerhouse worth $20 billion (£12.2 billion).

In the latest merger in the Internet sector, USA Networks will take over Lycos, the third-biggest online search engine, and combine it with its Home Shopping Network television channel and Ticketmaster, the telephone ticket seller. Financial details are yet to be issued, but Lycos investors will receive extra shares if the combined market value exceeds $45 billion in two years' time.

The new company aims to be the first fully integrated electronic retailer, combining the persuasiveness of television with the ease of access of the Internet and the telephone. The company, to be called USA/Lycos Interactive Networks, will have sales of $1.5 billion.

It will be owned 61.5 per cent by USA Networks and 30 per cent by Lycos shareholders.

Lycos shareholders are estimated to receive a premium of only 2.5 per cent after their shares' recent sharp rise in expectation of a deal. Lycos previously had talks with General Electric, owner of the NBC television channel.

USA/Lycos will reach about 30 million Internet users and 70 million television homes.

Closure threat for Ordnance

By Christine Buckley

BRITISH AEROSPACE is to start closing its Royal Ordnance factories if it cannot find a buyer for the business — potentially cutting thousands of jobs.

The move, its first steps towards a shake-up of its defence systems, is part of a tough rationalisation programme designed to improve returns in defence systems.

The tough rationalisation programme would also cut a swathe through managerial ranks in other divisions and sell off unprofitable businesses. It comes ahead of BAe's planned £7 billion merger with GEC Marconi.

The threat to Royal Ordnance comes as the loss-making business struggles amid a massive decline in orders from the Ministry of Defence.

Ordnance threat, page 2
Commentary, page 23

Walls has key role in Servisair bid battle

By Paul Armstrong



Walls: "connected"

STEPHEN WALLS, who has become better known for his golden handshakes than his achievements in the boardroom, has emerged as a key player in the takeover battle for Servisair, the baggage handling group.

Mr Walls, who is a director of Servisair, is linked to a possible takeover bid being prepared for the company by Compass Partners, a manager of venture capital funds.

Compass yesterday refused to discuss the prospective bid, or its ties to Mr Walls. Servisair confirmed he was "connected with a possible alternative offeror" but would not elaborate. Servisair is the target of an £81.4 million hostile takeover bid from Amey, the contract services provider.

The offer is equal to 200p a share and compares with yesterday's closing price for Servisair of 218½p. The company's shares peaked at 505p in 1997 but fell to a low of 102p last October.

Brian Staples, the Amey chief executive, yesterday questioned Mr Walls's involvement in any alternative bid for Servisair. "If it [the bid] is real, it causes me some concern because Stephen Walls clearly has an intimate knowledge of the accounts of the business," Mr Staples said.

Mr Walls is well remembered in the City for the remuneration packages he has reaped in return for his services to shareholders.

In its defence document sent to shareholders yesterday, Servisair described Amey's offer as opportunistic.

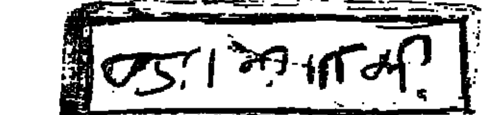
John Willis, the Servisair chief executive, said: "The offer we have does not reflect the customer relationships we have and the position we have in Europe to go forward."

However, Mr Staples described Servisair's defence as "jam tomorrow" and said that shareholders should be told whether there was an alternative bid.

Commentary, page 23

THE MAN AND HIS MONEY

1989: Given £1 million payout when Plessey is taken over by GEC.
1992: Leaves Wiggins Teape Appleton with £175,000 after merger with Arjomari-Prioux.
1992: Non-exec chairman of Albert Fisher (£80,000 salary). Left last year.
1999: Remains director of Lonrho Africa.



Virgin to put £1.25bn into trains

Richard Branson's Virgin Rail yesterday signed a £1.25 *billion* deal — the single biggest investment in new stock — for new 140mph tilting trains that will cut an hour from London to Scotland. It came as the company appointed Chris Green, a former senior British Rail figure, as its new chief executive.

Virgin will take on 53 eight-car and nine-car tilting trains that will be made in Europe but assembled by trainmaker Alstom in the West Midlands. Angel Trains, Britain's biggest train leasing company, will invest £592 million in the trains, the remaining £661 million going on maintenance.

The first train will be delivered in 2001, with complete delivery by September 2002.

Capital growth

Capital Shopping Centres, the retail landlord that owns Lakeside in Essex and Metro-Centre in the North East, said its out-of-town shopping units provided a safe haven from the turmoil on the high street over 1998 — allowing it to increase average rents by 12 per cent. Its *net asset value rose 18 per cent*, to 462p a share over 1998, and 80 per cent of the valuation uplift was driven by rental growth. Pre-tax profit was £87.1 million (£77.4 million), with investment income up 10.5 per cent to £107 million. The shares added 17p to 373½p.

BWD advances

BWD Securities, the stockbroker, is to lift its total dividend by 60 per cent after reporting a 64 per cent rise in year-end pre-tax profits to £5.4 million. A final dividend of 8.5p, payable on April 9, takes the annual dividend to 12p, compared to 7.5p last year. Earnings per share have jumped to 19.2p from 11.1p. Group turnover rose 22 per cent to £22.3 million, of which just under half was fee income.

Drug approval

Glaxo Wellcome has received its first regulatory approval for Relenza, its new treatment for influenza. After approval by Sweden's Medical Products Agency, Relenza should quickly win the go-ahead to be marketed across Europe under the European Union's mutual recognition procedure. The new medicine, which is inhaled, was developed by Biota, an Australian biotechnology company.

Confidence pick-up in CBI survey challenged

By Saeed Shah

THE GLOOM hanging over manufacturing deepened yesterday with a survey showing falling orders and continuing weakness in business confidence in all regions.

Although the Confederation of British Industry quarterly regional trends survey showed fewer firms were pessimistic about prospects across the regions *in January, compared* with October, analysts said that the marginal increases in optimism seen in recent surveys are not justified by the economic outlook for industry.

Stephen Lewis, chief economist of Monument Derivatives, said that the City had been fooled by an apparent rise in confidence among manufacturers. "Financial markets are far too optimistic about UK output prospects," he said. "The fact that the answers to confidence questions are slightly less negative than a few *months ago still means that* industry's outlook is negative."

Jonathan Loynes, of HSBC Markets, said: "The slight pick-up in confidence over the last month or two, brought about by lower interest rates, is not backed up by an im*provement in demand — it is* hope, rather than a response to what has happened in the economy. We could start to see this fade away again if home and overseas markets do not improve."

In the CBI survey, for January, the measure of confidence is -40 per cent, an improvement on the -58 per cent recorded in October. Wales was the *most pessimistic region in January*, with a reading of -61 per cent, followed by the West Midlands at -50 per cent. The most upbeat region was Northern Ireland, with a positive reading of 3 per cent; East Anglia was next, at -6 per cent.

The last time confidence nationally was positive in the survey was October 1997.

Mr Lewis forecast that manufacturing would contract by 2.5 per cent this year. The CBI survey showed that manufacturers in every region have responded to falling orders by cutting output and jobs. Employment reductions are expected to gather pace in most regions, especially the North, the North West, the West Midlands and Scotland.

The CBI has called for interest rates to fall to 5 per *cent "by the spring"*.



Danny Rosenkranz, left, and Tony Isaac unveiled a profit fall

Profit woe takes toll of BOC share price

By Paul Armstrong

SHARES in BOC Group were marked down heavily yesterday as the industrial gas supplier unveiled a 9.2 per cent drop in *pre-tax profits* for the December quarter.

The profit fall to £84.9 million and comments from Danny Rosenkranz, chief executive, that BOC's gas business, which accounts for 82 per cent of the company's turnover, had suffered "increasingly difficult trading conditions", saw 8.5 per cent wiped from BOC's share price in early trading. A partial recovery later saw the shares close down 5.7 per cent on the day at 814p.

Mr Rosenkranz said he was at a loss to explain the City's *hostile reaction to the results* at BOC, whose finance director is Tony Isaac, and believed the market had been well-informed of its trading position.

He said lower volumes had been almost entirely offset by the reduced costs that had flowed from BOC's efficiency drive. Gas products generated a £94.4 million operating profit in the period, down from £101 million in the previous corresponding period.

Mr Rosenkranz said he believed gas volumes this year would be similar to 1998 and profit margins would be the same, or slightly better because of cost-cutting.

The vacuum technology division registered a widely expected drop in operating profit from £12.3 million to £1.6 million.

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BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Valuation dispute halts Abbot merger

THE £500 million merger of Abbot, the oilfield services company, and ProSafe, of Norway, has collapsed after disagreement on valuations. The merger, proposed last month, would have been on a 50-50 basis, despite Abbot's larger market capitalisation. The 1997 operating profits of both groups were similar. News that talks had failed lifted Abbot's shares 30p to 175p yesterday. Alasdair Locke, Abbot's chairman, said: "There's nothing wrong with ProSafe. We think they are excellent. It was a perfectly valid disagreement about price."

The proposed deal, seen as a sensible response to the mergers sweeping the oil and gas industry, would have created a big provider of offshore inspection services, mud-processing equipment and fabrication of offshore modules. ProSafe and Abbot each said that their 1998 results would be in line with market expectations, but some analysts said the failure of the deal after a month of *talks leaves both vulnerable to takeover.*

Senior News Corp post

LACHLAN MURDOCH has been named senior executive vice-president of The News Corporation, parent company of *The Times*. He will assume responsibility for the company's US *print operations*, including HarperCollins, the publisher, the *New York Post* newspaper and News America Marketing, the newspaper insert service. Mr Murdoch, 27, son of Rupert Murdoch, News Corp's chairman and chief executive, remains chairman and chief executive of News Limited, its Australian arm.

Amstrad in the black

AMSTRAD, the consumer electronics company, returned to profit in its first half, earning £4.1 million before tax in the six months to December 31, after a pre-tax loss of £900,000 in its previous first half. Sales rose to £45.5 million, from £30.9 million, lifted by strong demand for television and video products. Amstrad began supplying digital satellite receivers to BSkyB in October. Earnings per share were 3.56p, against losses of 1.14p. The interim dividend rises to 0.3p, from 0.2p.

Pub deals lined up

PUBS 'N' BARS, the AIM-listed pub minnow, is poised to acquire 37 pubs in two deals with a total value of about £15 million. The bigger deal will see the company acquire the 34-strong Real Leisure group, which owns 18 per cent of Pubs 'n' Bars and runs its four pubs under a management agreement. Pubs 'n' Bars is also thought to be acquiring three other pubs, taking its estate to 41. The company, capitalised at just over £2 million, is likely to fund the deals largely with paper.

Pycraft suitor revealed

SHARES in Pycraft & Arnold, the chartered loss adjuster, fell back 3p to 65½p yesterday as Fishers International, the financial services group, was flushed out as its suitor. Pycraft said on Monday that it had received a bid offer which had been made at a "modest premium" to Friday's closing price of 53½p. Yesterday Fishers said that it was in "advanced discussions" to take over Pycraft, whose shares had leapt from their recent 12-month low of 49p.

Slow recovery for oil

GLOBAL demand for oil is likely to recover even more slowly in 1999 than previously expected because of the spread of economic slowdown in developing countries, the International Energy Agency said yesterday. The IEA, the West's energy watchdog, has shaved its annual demand forecast, estimat*ing that demand would rise by just one million barrels per* day (bpd) or 1.4 per cent to 74.67 million bpd this year. Last month the IEA forecast 1999 demand at 75.05 million bpd.

PowerGen buys stake

POWERGEN has paid £38 million for a 49.9 per cent stake in LG Energy, an independent power producer in South Korea owned by LG, the industrial conglomerate. LG Energy is spending £209 million building a gas-fired plant, which will become the country's first independent generating station. Ed Wallis, chairman of PowerGen, said that he expected South Korea to continue to be one of world's fastest-growing energy markets despite its region's recent economic downturn.

Siemens accuses rivals for Internet acquisitions

SIEMENS, the German electronics group, yesterday accused its rivals of "throwing away shareholders' money" by acquiring overrated Internet and technology companies (Chris Ayres writes from Berlin).

Volker Jung, a senior executive of Siemens, which was unveiling its own strategy in the communications sector, said: "There is a clear overrating of stock going on. Fantasy has become more important than reality, which is dangerous. We will not throw away our shareholders' money, but other companies are clearly doing that."

The comments were a clear reference to the $20 billion purchase of Ascend Communications by Lucent Technologies, the former telecoms equipment division of AT&T. The companies, both based in the US, have benefited enormously from the burgeoning demand for Internet services over telephone wires. The deal valued Ascend at nearly 90 times 1998 post-tax earnings.

Herr Jung made the comments while attending a conference in Berlin to mark the company's increased focus on information and communication products.

Regulator attempts to avert MBO paralysis

ACCOUNTANTS were yesterday given a get-out clause by their regulator over the Year 2000 bug in an attempt to avert a paralysis in the management buyout market (Jason Nissé writes).

The Auditing Practices Board issued a bulletin that states under what conditions accountants are able to sign Financial Assistance certificates, a requirement under the Companies Act that allows a leveraged buyout of a limited company. The certificates say that a company can meet its debts as they come due over the next year.

There had been worries that accountants would not be able to sign these certificates because of fears that the Year 2000 bug in computers could have such an adverse effect on companies' finances that it could force them into receivership.

The APB said accountants can obtain an opinion from the directors of the company being bought out that they can deal with the Year 2000 bug. So long as the accountants consider the director's report to be "not unreasonable", they can sign the Financial Assistance statement.

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Broker funds warned

THE Personal Investment Authority (PIA) has issued its stiffest warning yet against the managers of broker funds (Caroline Merrell writes).

Hundreds of thousands of investors hold £1 billion in broker funds, which are operated by independent financial advisers. The funds have been criticised for poor performance and for double charging.

David Peffer, chief executive, said yesterday: "Investors should be aware that an IFA firm has a conflict of interest when recommending a broker fund which it manages. Existing investors should watch the performance carefully and ask themselves if they are getting value for the extra charges."

Amvescap lifted by US market

PROFITS at Amvescap, the fund manager that took over GT Global last year, rose 30 per cent to £231.3 million last year (Caroline Merrell writes).

The increase in profits was generated by the big rise in US markets, where Amvescap holds the majority of its investment. Funds under management averaged $232.9 billion (£145 billion) for the year, up $26.2 billion. Part of the increase was generated by new business of $4.6 billion.

The acquisition costs of GT Global were revealed to have come in at £48.6 million. The majority of this was severance pay to GT staff. In total, the integration of GT Global with Invescap is expected to cost 600 jobs. The final dividend of 5p gives a total of 8p, up 14 per cent on last year.

EXCHANGE RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.62	2.45
Austria Sch	20.94	19.28
Belgium Fr	61.64	56.68
Canada $	2.566	2.378
Cyprus Cyp £	0.8847	0.8132
Denmark Kr	11.36	10.47
Egypt	5.78	5.17
Finland Mkk	9.17	8.42
France Fr	9.98	9.20
Germany Dm	2.997	2.755
Greece Dr	493	454
Hong Kong $	13.51	12.31
Iceland	127	107
Indonesia	17984	12984
Ireland Pt	1.1959	1.1089
Israel Shk	7.04	6.38
Italy Lira	2981	2744
Japan Yen	202.72	186.19
Malta	0.686	0.607
Netherlds Gld	3.385	3.090
New Zealand $	3.09	2.85
Norway Kr	13.12	12.18
Portugal Esc	303.12	281.09
S Africa Rd	10.60	9.64
Spain Pta	252.58	233.79
Sweden Kr	13.70	12.60
Switzerland Fr	2.474	2.255
Turkey Lira	573191	535092
USA $	1.743	1.600

Rates for small denomination banknotes only as supplied by Barclays Bank. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.



Bad air day for Ayling



COMMENTARY
by our City Editor

This spring, British Airways will embark on a new staff training programme entitled "Putting People First Again". Admirable though this may be, it does rather beg the question of where BA has been putting people recently. Among both staff and customers there has been a suspicion that people were not featuring near the top of BA's priorities.

If you take pride in being the "price leader", a concept that airline operators interpret in the opposite way to grocers, then well motivated staff doing their best to look after passengers are essential. Otherwise price leadership just looks plain expensive.

Bob Ayling has been focusing on profit rather than people and there can be no doubt that the drastic cost-cutting he instigated was essential to BA's long-term survival. But if the new training programme represents a realisation that profits depend on people, there is a chance that BA could rebuild its reputation as the world's favourite airline, at least with shareholders and those passengers who do not object to paying premium prices for extra legroom and linen napery.

That there will continue to be a growing number of people prepared to do just that is crucial to Mr Ayling's strategy for the airline. Although BA has launched Go to cater for price-conscious fliers, Mr Ayling is loath to see suits and briefcases climbing aboard. Companies may talk of cost cutting but he clearly does not expect them to take the exercise as seriously as BA has done, exporting jobs to India and cutting cabin crew wages.

It is unfortunate for him that the economic problems of the Far East have encouraged other airlines to wing into BA's more lucrative routes with business class seats on offer at discounted prices and, apparently, found some people prepared to shun the price leader. He is convinced that Asian and Latin American businessmen will soon be taking to the air again and that the interlopers will fly away, leaving BA with its prices intact and its profits ready to swell.

It is a brave strategy and yesterday the stock market gave the slenderest indication that it may be beginning to believe in it. The third-quarter figures took the company into the red, but not as deeply as analysts had feared, and there would have been a profit but for the effect of currency movements on an aircraft financing deal. The cost-cutting drive, unlike most airlines, is coming in ahead of schedule.

He may now be feeling that he can spend a bit of time on his other job, as supremo of the Millennium Dome in Greenwich. That will sadly prevent him from joining other BA executives in the sky when 2000 dawns, but he has every confidence they will have a safe flight.

MoD has to play Russian roulette

British Aerospace profited mightily in the 1980s from being seen as a strategic national plc. Its business was so bound up with government that it could safely be entrusted with other strategic national assets, such as Rover and Royal Ordnance, which the Tories wanted to privatise but which could not stand on their own. As reward for playing this role, BAe got the businesses at bargain prices.

Royal Ordnance was prime supplier of ammunition and explosives to Her Majesty's forces, the most powerful in Europe. It was needed not least because the loyal Belgians would not supply us ammunition for the Falklands force. But the Ministry of Defence wanted it to compete on, as it were, an arm's-length basis, without guarantees of orders.

In the plan to sell the ammunition factories, there was to be a golden share to stop them being owned by foreigners. But as BAe was buying, this was not deemed necessary. BAe itself had just such a restriction on ownership.

Such easily held assumptions did not stop BAe selling Rover for a bigger sum to BMW once positive cashflow had turned into a desperate need for investment. Selling Rover into the "safe" foreign hands of BMW made industrial sense and was the key to BAe's financial recovery. Leaving the UK without a home-owned motor manufacturer was just an unhappy side-effect. Still less can BAe be blamed for giving notice that it will sell or close any Royal Ordnance factories that have not been turned into property developments. The MoD has been using the world glut of ammunition to win a peace dividend for taxpayers by buying abroad. Orders for Royal Ordnance ammo have worse than halved. It is not viable.

In essence, however, BAe, like BMW, is now holding a gun to the Government's head. Give us orders or ask yourself if the plucky Belgians would supply material for another flare-up in Ulster or intervention in Kosovo.

The Longbridge saga will remind ministers that to be relaxed and civilised about foreign ownership of vital businesses leaves you impotent in your own house and wide open to blackmail. Europe's most powerful forces are no use without bullets.

What's bugging the accountants?

What is the difference between "reasonable" and "not unreasonable"? If you are an auditor, it could be £100,000 a year on professional indemnity insurance.

Yesterday's bulletin from the Auditing Practices Board offers a classic get-out clause for accountants fearful of the millennium bug. Accountants are concerned that the Financial Assistance statements they sign as an essential part of management buyouts, verifying that a company can meet its debts for the next 12 months, might look a little misleading if the bug hits the company and it goes bust in 2000. Aggressive investors might be tempted to start talking to lawyers about the accountants' negligence. With admirable foresight, the APB has rushed out a form of words to get around the possibility.

The auditors must ask the directors whether they think the bug will have a material impact on the company, its suppliers or its customers. If the response is no, then the auditors have to decide not whether this is "reasonable", because that would require them to spend a lot of time checking, but that it is "not unreasonable". The APB says this will require a "low level of inquiries", conducted from the perspective of an "informed layman".

Some may think an informed layman could often improve on the work of qualified auditors.

To the wall?

STEPHEN WALLS has enjoyed a remarkable career. That it is not yet at an end is testimony to remarkable determination and very thick skin. Should he now get involved in a bid battle for Servisair, his opponents will find plenty of ammunition. Even his starting point, as a director of Servisair, raises questions over his reasons for rejecting Amey's bid. But the biggest question must be whether it is wise to want a company with Walls as a director.

Tie Rack ex-chief returns

NIGEL McGINLEY, who resigned as chief executive of Tie Rack 12 months ago, has returned to his old job to try to rescue the retailer from its worst-ever year (Fraser Nelson writes).

Roy Bishko, Tie Rack's founder and chairman, who is to step back from daily management, said: "I told him we needed him because we work well together. While he was here, we never made a loss."

The appointment came as Tie Rack said it was heading for a loss that "will not exceed £7.5 million" — against City forecasts of a £4 million loss. However, City investors were more taken by Mr McGinley's return, marking the shares up 3p to 22½p.

Reuters warns of slower progress

By Raymond Snoddy, Media Editor

REUTERS, the international news and information group, yesterday gave warning that lower revenue growth was likely this year, although savings from a reorganisation would also start to take effect.

Peter Job, chief executive, said that price increases introduced last month would be offset by a fall in new orders in the final quarter of last year as clients reacted to the crisis in emerging markets. The company also suffered a sharp setback in Russia and weak demand in Asia, with the exception of an encouraging performance in Japan.

Reuters announced a 7 per cent drop in pre-tax profits to £580 million for the year to December 31. Profits were struck by a £50 million allowance for goodwill, after a change in accounting practice, and reflected a £78 million fall in interest after the return of £1.5 billion of capital to shareholders. Before currency costs, the pre-tax profits were up by 2 per cent.

Revenue rose by 5 per cent, to £3.03 billion, and operating profit rose 2 per cent.

Mr Job said: "We turned to our advantage the many ups and downs of 1998, translating them into a strong underlying performance, with operating profit at comparable rates up 14 per cent."

The chief executive also expressed increasing confidence in the company's ability to "address the millennium issue" — something that has hung over its share price. Reuters had successfully handled the move to the euro, he said, and was drawing up back-up plans, with most of the basic work done. Dealing with the millennium bug is likely to cost Reuters a total of £45 million.

Mr Job also spoke of Reuters's growing presence as an information provider on the Internet. He said: "We are getting 100 million page views a month off the main search engines."

A final dividend of 11p lifts the total to 14.4p, from 13p. The shares, which have had a strong rally since October, fell 33p to 833p.

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Stoves hit by cooker imports

AN INFLUX of fashionable Italian cookers from Smeg and Range Britannia has cut interim profits of Stoves, the Merseyside oven-maker, to their lowest for eight years (Fraser Nelson writes).

The company said that the sustained strength of sterling is helping its European rivals to pitch themselves at much lower prices to Britain's richer householders.

Pre-tax profits plunged to £404,000 in the half to November 30, from £2.83 million last time. Earnings per share were 1.2p (7.6p). The interim payout is held at 2.2p.

Stoves is now trying to cut production costs by up to 10 per cent so it can reduce the price tags of up to £2,000 on its cookers, and is to begin an advertising campaign.

Primesight falls to SMG for £35m

By Raymond Snoddy, Media Editor

SCOTTISH MEDIA GROUP yesterday made its first foray south of the border with a recommended £35 million cash offer for Primesight, the billboard poster group.

The deal, also Scottish Media's first move into outdoor advertising, follows last year's unsuccessful raid on VCI, the video publisher, for which it was outbid by Kingfisher.

Primesight specialises in selling advertising space, mainly on illuminated 1.2m by 1.8m (six-sheet) panels. At the end of last year the company had 10 per cent of the six-sheet market in the UK with about 5,700 poster panels.

Andrew Flanagan, chief executive of SMG, which owns *The Herald* newspaper in Glasgow and the Scottish and Grampian ITV franchises said: "Primesight is a good little business and a useful addition to the group."

SMG intends to accelerate Primesight's expansion programme, with Scotland an obvious target.

SMG has been looking for opportunities to expand into the English media market for some time as further significant media acquisitions in Scotland are difficult because of monopoly problems.

The company is paying 320p a share for Primesight, which represents a premium of 23.6 per cent on the day that offer talks were announced.

SMG has irrevocable undertakings from 51 per cent of the shareholders including all the Primesight directors. There is also a partial share offer of 18.66 new SMG shares and £160 in cash for every 100 Primesight shares.

Profit dip at health care firm

WESTMINSTER Health Care, the nursing home operator, yesterday blamed a shortage of nurses, and the need to employ more agency staff, for its poor results (Manus Costello writes).

John Lockhart, chairman, said rising staff costs meant that the outlook for the nursing home sector in the UK "remains difficult".

The company reported pre-tax, pre-exceptional profits for the six months ended November 30 of £6.6 million, down from £8.4 million. Turnover rose from £70 million to £79 million. Earnings were down to 7.2p a share (9.5p). The interim dividend of 2.85p per share was maintained.

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STOCK MARKET | MICHAEL CLARK

Speculators turn focus on packaging specialist

IF THE share price is anything to go by, a bid for **David S Smith** is *virtually all* wrapped-up.

The paper and packaging specialist was one of the best performers among the second-liners with a rise of 9p, or almost 8 per cent, to 124p as 3.3 million shares changed hands. David S Smith is not a newcomer to speculation. In fact, it is one of the longest-running takeover sagas in the City and is certainly looking vulnerable *to unwelcome attention.*

The shares had collapsed from a peak of 252p last year as a strong pound and deteriorating market conditions took their toll. The price hit a 12-year low of 87p last month, at which point the speculators began piling in. At these levels, the group is capitalised at £398 million.

Share prices generally lost an early lead and were later *hit by a sell-off in the financial* futures market. However, prices closed above their worst levels despite another setback for the Dow Jones industrial average in early trading.

The FTSE 100 index ended 55.0 down at 5,779.9 while the FTSE 250 index closed 27.9 off at 5,177.5. More than a billion shares changed hands.

A favourable trading statement brought the buyers flocking back for **SmithKline Beecham**, up 33p to 831½p, and spilled over into **Glaxo Wellcome**, 46p better at £19.43.

Utility companies also attracted their fair share of attention on yield considerations. **Severn Trent** was up 22p to 942p, **United Utilities** rose 13½p to 803p, **National Power** grew 8p to 500p, and **Thames Water** put on 14p to £11.13.

FKI clawed back an early loss to finish just ½p lighter at 174½p, after briefly touching 169p. Takeover talk remains rife. **First Leisure** edged ahead 1½p to 220p on renewed talk of a bid from **Bass**, down 31½p to 818½p.

The sell-off in **Enterprise Oil**, up 4p at 238½p, has been overdone. That is the conclusion of Commerzbank Global Equities, which has moved from "hold" to "buy" and set a 12-month fair value target for the shares of 350p. Earlier this week, speculation intensified that Enterprise may be close to agreeing terms of a merger with rival **Lasmo**, down 2½p to 116p. But time may be running out. **BG**, down 6p to 356p, is said to have taken a shine to Lasmo while Italy's ENI may want Enterprise.

WestLB Panmure, the broker, pulled the rug from under **Bank of Scotland**, down 20p to 799p. It has cut its recommendation for the shares from "buy" to "trading sell".

There was a lukewarm response to full-year results from **Reuters**, down 33p to 833p. Profits, as expected, fell 7 per cent to £580 million with Peter Job, chief executive, *blaming the downturn in* emerging markets. Curiously enough, the shares have been a strong market this year with the group benefiting from its tag as an Internet play.

City Centre Restaurants continues to bump along the bottom with the price shading ½p to 61½p on the back of some cautious comments by *Credit Suisse First Boston, the* broker. The group rattled the City with a profits warning in January last year. The shares have fallen back from a peak of 162½p in July, and the promise to sell-off its Deep Pan pizza division has yet to be delivered. CSFB has cut its profit forecast for 1998 from £19 million to £17.7 million.

Further consolidation of the drinks industry could be on *the cards. Industry sources* claim Alchemy, the venture capitalist, may be casting its eye over **Inn Business**, unchanged at 60p. Inn Business hit a low of 34p in October.

Ashtead Group has enjoyed a strong run in the wake of recent interim results but the price fell 6½p to 180p as Merrill Lynch, the broker, downgraded its recommendation from "buy" to "accumulate".

News of the bid approach sent **Reunion Mining** climbing 23p to 75½p. City gossips say the bidder is Anglo American, which wants to get its hands on the Skorpion nickel mine. Word is Anglo has already offered 120p a share.

Inner Workings rallied 3p to 22½p after the company reassured shareholders it knew of no reason for the recent fall in the share price. The AIM-listed company has collapsed from a peak of 94½p since April last year.

Keep an eye on **Easyscreen**, up 35p to 620p, as a further 50,521 share changed hands. The group, which has developed a front-ended computerised trading system for use with derivatives trading, came to market last month at 170p.

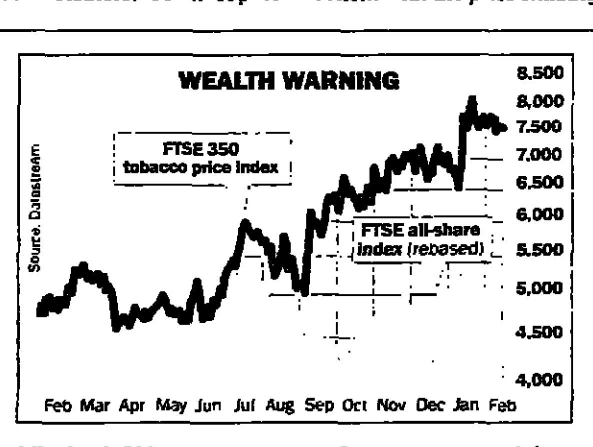
☐ **GILT-EDGED:** Shorter-dated issues were left nursing small losses on the day as hopes of a further cut in interest rates next month suffered a setback. It followed a stronger than expected survey from the British Retail Consortium.

In the futures pit, the March series of the long gilt rose 40p to £118.70 as 29,000 contracts were completed. Among conventional issues, Treasury 8 per cent 2021 rose 69p to £150.65. By contrast, Treasury 7 per cent 2002 was left 4p adrift at £107.50.

☐ **NEW YORK:** Wall Street sagged as worries about overpriced shares triggered fresh selling. At midday the Dow Jones industrial average was down 78.52 points to 9,212.59.



Peter Job, chief executive of Reuters, the shares of which fell 33p to 833p in response to a 7 per cent drop in profits



LITIGATION can prove stressful for City investors and so it proved yesterday in the High Court.

Eight sample smoking and health claims were rejected. It was ruled that the lawsuits had begun after the time permitted by law.

The tobacco companies breathed a sigh of relief, with BAT Industries finishing 17½p dearer at 631p, while Gallaher put on 16½p to 431p and Imperial Tobacco sported a rise of 24p to 711½p.

BAT is no stranger to litigation over cancer claims. It has been fighting them in the US, along with other US tobacco producers, for years.

Only last year, the US tobacco producers agreed to pay Medicaid hundreds of millions of dollars in compensation.

Litigation in this country is not as advanced as in the US. Brokers say this case may not be the end of the matter, but caution that the fight could drag on for years to come before any settlement, if any, is agreed.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):

Dow Jones	9212.59 (-78.52)
S&P Composite	1223 43 (-15 34)

Tokyo:

Nikkei Average	13902.66 (-89 83)

Hong Kong:

Hang Seng	9244.49 (-104.99)

Amsterdam:

AEX Index	518 06 (-10 18)

Sydney:

AO	2890 70 (-9 30)

Frankfurt:

DAX	4904.35 (-122.97)

Singapore:

Straits	1306 37 (-30 51)

Brussels:

BEL20	3385.19 (-60.98)

Paris:

CAC-40	4038 49 (-115 53)

Zurich:

SKA Gen	1344.50 (-23 20)

London:

FT 30	3541 1 (-42.9)
FTSE 100	5779 9 (-55.0)
FTSE 250	5177 5 (-27.9)
FTSE 350	2759 1 (-24 4)
FTSE Eurotop 100	2684 52 (-56 23)
FTSE All-Share	2670 65 (-22.20)
FTSE Non Financials	2759.89 (-16 39)
FTSE Fixed Interest	157 98 (+0 26)
FTSE Govt Secs	115 56 (+0 13)
Bargains	71010
SEAQ Volume	1069 4m
US$	1 6365 (+0 0038)
Euro	0 6904 (+0 0015)
£:SDR	1 1759
Exchange index	100 6 (n/c)
Bank of England official close (4pm)	
RPI	164 4 Dec (2 8%) Jan 1987 = 100
RPIx	162.4 Dec (2.6%) Jan 1987 = 100

RECENT ISSUES

AIM VCT	100	..	
Abbey Natl Dublin Inv	88	..	
BFS O'seas Inc & Gwth Cap	98	..	
BFS O'seas Inc & Gwth Inc	120	...	
Close Bros Dev VCT	100	..	
Gander Properties	7	..	
Jupiter En Zero Dv Pf	106¾	...	
Jupiter Enhanced Inc	98¾	–	¼
Singer & Frd AIM VCT	100		
Yeoman II Equity Units	103	...	
Yeoman II Inv Tst Cap	5¼	...	
Yeoman II Inv Tst Inc	97½	.	
Yeoman II Zero Div Pf	116¼	..	

RIGHTS ISSUES

Ambient Media n/p (49)	¾	.

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:

Stock	Close	Chng	Chng%
Reunion Mng	75½	+ 23	+ 43.8
Enviromed	11	+ 3	+ 37 5
Network Tech	26	+ 5½	+ 26.8
Abbot Group	176	+ 31	+ 21.3
Booker	66	+ 9½	+ 16.8
Alpha Airpts	57½	+ 8	+ 16.1
CML Micro	99	+ 13½	+ 15.7
Save Group	45	+ 6	+ 15.3
Tie Rack	22½	+ 3	+ 15.3
Inner Workings	22½	+ 3	+ 15.3
Hornby	184	+ 20½	+ 12.5
Hunting	128½	+ 13	+ 11.2
Cleveland Tst	101	+ 9½	+ 10.3
MFI	43	+ 4	+ 10 2

FALLS:

Stock	Close	Chng	Chng%
Cityview	26¾	– 5¾	– 17.6
Internet Tech	140	– 17½	– 11.1
SOCO Intl	33	– 4	– 10.8
West Hlthcare	177½	– 19	– 9 6
Limelight	42½	– 4½	– 9 5
Seacon	23	– 2	– 8.0
Hillsdown	66	– 5½	– 7.6
Dialog	81½	– 6½	– 7.3
MDIS	38	– 3	– 7.3
Spring Gp	179	– 14	– 7 2
TI	362	– 28	– 7.1
Johnson Fry	117½	– 9	– 7.1
Boot (Henry)	200	– 15	– 6.9
Mandarin Orntl	30¼	– 2¼	– 6 9
Sappi	209¾	– 15	– 6 6
Costain	21	– 1½	– 6 6
Stoves	65	– 4½	– 6.4
BTR Siebe	228½	– 15¾	– 6 4
Torotrak	87½	– 6	– 6.4
Scapa	110	– 7	– 5 9
JSB Software Tech	242½	– 15	– 5 8

TEMPUS

Vaux clears the air

BOARDROOM divisions are rarely healthy. But remarkably, it looks as if the sacking of Martin Grant and Neal Gossage, respectively chief executive and finance director of Sunderland brewer Vaux, may be no bad thing for shareholders.

Although it is just eight months since Mr Grant joined Vaux from Allied Domecq, he has achieved a lot. Most importantly, he forced Sir Paul Nicholson, whose family has been involved the group since its inception 161 years ago, to reappraise the viability of Vaux's two breweries.

Sir Paul reluctantly rubberstamped Mr Grant's decision to sell the breweries. But while it now seems the bad feeling the restructuring created cost the arriviste his job, the breweries sale remains on track. So while the departure of Mr Grant is messy, he leaves the company in a healthier state than when he arrived. Vaux — or Swallow Group as it will become — will derive around three-quarters of its profits from operating one of the country's best four-star hotel chains.

Peter Catesby, the veteran Swallow boss who has deferred his retirement to replace Mr Grant, is well-regarded and given the group's new hotels focus his appointment cannot be regarded negatively. He and his team have plenty of work to do before Vaux becomes an attractive investment in pure trading terms, but with the management air cleared Mr Catesby can get down to work.

But the takeover vultures are circling and Mr Catesby's relatively advanced age means the chances of a takeover are enhanced. It is the whiff of takeover action makes the stock attrative. Buy at *273½p.*

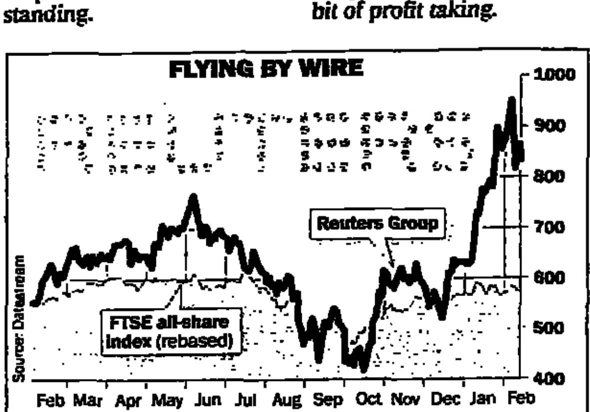
Reuters

A RADICAL change of sentiment has hit on Reuters. Until last October this was the company that was to be deeply damaged by the Internet. It would find life increasing difficult with new boy Bloomberg on the block, and find custom increasing hard to come by, with financial institutions drawing in horns. And then there was the millennium bug.

Since October, however, Reuters has increasingly been viewed as a firm with much *to gain from the Internet*, enabling it to deliver off-trading floor products to corporate Intranets and private investors. Far from Bloomberg damaging Reuters both are now believed to be benefiting at the expense of the third player, Bridge. And talk of falling demand for financial information has been neutered.

Given the fact that the shares have doubled in value since October, it is hard to believe Reuters is the same company. True, the successful euro transition allayed fears about the impact of the millennium bug. It it also undeniable that, at £5, the market seriously undervalued the strength of the Reuters name, its products and its financial standing.

At 833p the shares trade on a p/e of 31. This sort of supercharged rating is now commonplace for companies, such as Reuters, which can boast of an Internet connection. But for a firm that so struggled to grow profits last year, the rating is ambitious to say the least. Give in to any temptation to top slice for a *bit of profit taking.*



BOC Group

SOME might feel sympathy for Danny Rosenkranz, the BOC Group chief executive. Thanks to him the cost side of BOC's ledger is a good deal lighter. It is on track to slash annual costs by £50 million this financial year and take annualised savings of £120 million next year.

But the Asian crisis, steel industry overcapacity and the trials of semiconductor makers have combined to chew away at the revenue columns. And fine though the cost-cutting efforts have been, there is little Mr Rosenkranz can do about Japan's stumbling efforts to address its structural problems, or the dumping habits of South Korea's steel mills at the expense of BOC's customers.

The semiconductor market, on which BOC's vacuum technology division relies, may be improving. But the hopes are far from fulsome, and besides, the division accounts for 8 per cent of BOC's turnover, compared with 80 per cent for gas products.

Moreover, the reshaping of the BOC cost base is about more than dealing with short-term demand problems related to swinging economic cycles. Costs need to be reshaped to keep BOC competitive in a changed environment. BOC also needs to change it internal culture.

But it is much tougher out there and BOC has the increasing look of a commodity supplier. With a 49p fall in the share price yesterday BOC *shares stand at 814p, trading* on a prospective price/earnings multiple of about 15. Sell.

WHC

IT HAS been a tough few years for Westminster Health Care. Profits peaked in 1997 but have been slipping ever since. Yesterday's interims suggest that the good times are still some way off.

Chief among its current difficulties are staff shortages, which have led to the increased use of expensive agency staff. By changing shift patterns and retaining more permanent staff, the company is now getting to grips with the problem, but it is hardly reassuring that mangement allowed the problem to surface at all. But just when those problems seem to have been dealt with, WHC has run into wage inflation — sparked by the Government's recent generous pay award for nurses.

WHC shares have more than halved since the start of last year. Yesterday they fell *another 10 per cent to 177½p* to trade at 11 times forecast earnings. There is light at the end of the tunnel in the form of better non-core performance and the possibility of a property asset securitisation which will free up cash resources. But given that things may well get worse before they get better, there is no need to chase the shares.

EDITED BY ROBERT COLE

COMMODITIES

LIFFE — COCOA; ROBUSTA COFFEE; WHITE SUGAR (FOB); MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION; ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm) CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB); PRODUCTS ($/MT); IPE FUTURES (GNI Ltd) GAS OIL; BRENT ($.00pm); GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES LIFFE WHEAT (close £/t), LIFFE BARLEY (close £/t); LIFFE POTATO (£/t); RUBBER (No 1 RSS Cif p/k); LIFFE BIFFEX (GNI Ltd $10.pt); LONDON METAL EXCHANGE (Official) (Volume prev day)

[illegible]

LIFFE OPTIONS

[illegible]

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
Long Gilt	Mar 99	113 35	118 30	[illegible]	118 70	36502
	Jun 99	113 35	119 50	119 34	119 50	153
German Govt Bond (Bund)	Mar 99				[illegible]	[illegible]
Five Year Gilt	Mar 99				[illegible]	[illegible]
	Jun 99				[illegible]	0
Italian Govt Bond (BTP)	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Japanese Govt Bond (JGB)	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Three Mth Sterling	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Three Mth Euromark	[illegible]					
Three Mth Eurolira	[illegible]					
Three Mth Euroswiss	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Three Mth Euro	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
FTSE 100	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: [illegible]
Discount Market Loans: [illegible]
Treasury Bills (Dis): [illegible]

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis)	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Sterling Money Rates	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Local Authority Deps	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Sterling CDs	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Dollar CDs	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Building Society CDs	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth	Call
Dollar	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Sterling	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Euro	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Yen	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Canada	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open: [illegible] Close: [illegible] High: [illegible] Low: [illegible] AM: [illegible] PM: [illegible]
Krugerrand: [illegible]
Platinum: [illegible] Silver: [illegible] Palladium: [illegible]

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for February 9 — Range / Close / 1 month / 3 Month

[illegible]

Source: Ecu

DOLLAR RATES

Australia	1 5455-1.5467
Canada	1.4916-1.4926
Denmark	6.5680-6 5730
Euro	1.1315-1 1323
Hong Kong	7 7488-7 7493
Japan	114 62-114 67
Malaysia	3.7998-3 8002
Norway	7 6440-7.6490
Singapore	1 6915-1 6925
Sweden	7 8680-7 8775
Switzerland	1.4130-1.4140

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso*	1.6330-1 6430
Australia dollar	2 5283-2 5311
Bahrain dinar	0 6110-0.6252
Brazil real*	3 14-3 15
Cyprus pound	0 8325-0 8513
Euro	1 4457-1 4480
Finland markka	8 5440-8 6831
Greece drachma	461 75-472 25
Hong Kong dollar	12 6817-12 6864
India rupee	68.81-70 41
Indonesia rupiah	13970 0-14570.0
Kuwait dinar KD	0 4905-0 5019
Malaysia ringgit	6 2188-6.2213
New Zealand dollar	2 9423-2 9469
Pakistan rupee	79 0500 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	5.9000-6.0374
Singapore dollar	2 7686-2 7711
S Africa rand (com)	9 7510-9 9698
U A E dirham	5.9525-6 0911

Barclays Treasury * Lloyds Bank

FTSE VOLUMES

[illegible]

WALL STREET

Feb 9 midday / Feb 8 close

[illegible]

Online revolution tears up rulebook

To techno-ostriches, e-commerce means buying the odd CD or book online as a bit of a novelty. It is, needless to say, much more than this. The exponential growth of e-commerce — digital economy gives a better idea of the scale of the thing — is tearing up the rules of business and economics. Think of life before and after electricity and you get somewhere near the enormity of the change the Internet is bringing.

Luddites are easily bored by all the superlatives inspired by the Internet, but the numbers are genuinely mind-boggling. At the World Economic Forum, which wrapped up in Davos last week, the Internet, e-commerce, etc, eclipsed all other subjects for discussion. It was understandably difficult to focus on thoughts of the crisis of capitalism when capitalism was being given an injection of rocket fuel by events in cyberspace.

Quite sane (if very excitable) people were saying that about 10 per cent to 15 per cent of world retail sales will be online in a decade. Business-to-business e-commerce was an even hotter topic. Forrester Research of Cambridge, Massachusetts, estimates that businesses bought and sold $43 billion worth of goods over the Internet last year, against the $8 billion spent by consumers.

In Davos, there were estimates that business-to-business trade would be worth $840 billion in three years. One executive, already buying and selling steel on the Internet, suggested that this was already looking too modest. If a good proportion of this $700 billion-a-year market goes online — likely, given the huge cost savings in terms of sales forces, brokers and the foreign travel costs of physically scouring the world for the best prices — the $840 billion figure could be met sooner than anyone can imagine.

Steel is but one old-fashioned industry that is using the new technology. Industry exchanges are popping up all over the Internet, linking buyers and sellers by providing timely and trustworthy, one hopes, market information. MetalSite is an online exchange for flat-rolled steel, the National Transportation Exchange (*nte.net*) helps shippers to find available capacity on trucks and ranks shipment requests in order of potential profitability.

Erick Schonfeld of *Fortune* magazine believes that VerticalNet, which provides sites for 33 industries, and Chemdex, which matches buyers and sellers of laboratory chemicals, could both go public this year. These offerings could be an interesting show in themselves, he says, but the real spectacle will be "watching these high-tech go-betweens drag the industrial economy onto the Net".

All of this has astonishing implications. No large company or industrial sector will remain untouched by digital commerce. Retailers will inevitably find that they cannot compete on cost. Some of their business will go online. What remains will have to offer the shopper incentives to turn up in person. Bookstores will become coffee houses and meeting places.



The prospect of a huge consumer marketplace on the Internet is already engineering huge changes. Yesterday's story in *The Times* that Bill Gross, the entrepreneur, is offering to give away $1,000 PCs in return for the right to display advertising on their screens is just a start. In two or three years the humble PC is expected to be a minority route to accessing the Internet, with the television and telephone direct taking over.

In any case, money will not be made primarily from hardware or software. One of the obvious ways for Internet service providers to go is to move into the database business. They will be able to build up astonishingly detailed profiles of customers: their location, their likes, their dislikes, their spending patterns and incomes. Privacy on the Net is a huge issue and until regulators come up with some kind of consensus, information for marketing purposes will be hot property.

This is only a byte-sized example of a wave of revolutionary change going on that is barely understood by most of us and has barely been tackled by governments. They face problems of privacy law and of regulation of criminal activity (a man from Interpol turned up at a session on regulating cyberspace in Davos). Far more fundamental than these, however, is the question of taxation. If more and more commerce is going online and governments fail to capture the tax revenue from cyberspace that they did in earthly tax districts, they are going to find large and permanent black holes in their tax revenues.

It is assumed that even slimmed down state sectors of the future are still going to be paying for such things as education, healthcare and police, but will they be able to afford it without more stringent and effective taxing of e-commerce? The US Administration has taken the view that the Internet is too important a driver of technological innovation to impose taxes on transactions. It has said that there should be no new taxes beyond what is charged at local or state level, and this, currently, is a patchwork. (For a comprehensive guide to current US states' taxation, go to the Vertex Tax Cybrary on the Net).

The OECD is working intensively on how to tax cyberspace, which is not easy for the simple reason that nobody is sure where, in earth terms, a transaction has occurred. One suggestion would be to impose a blanket international tax on bytes going through the Internet service providers and then somehow share the revenues between national governments.

If Barings' management found it difficult to control its derivatives traders because it didn't understand what they were up to, how much more of an unequal struggle will it be between technocrats from the Inland Revenue and the techno-wizards driving the growth of the Internet?

Counterfeiters are poised to cash in on arrival of the euro

Urgent action is required to safeguard Europe's new currency, says Jeff Stuart

The euro has been successfully launched and forecasts are that it will become a "reserve" currency alongside the US dollar. This contains the seeds of a serious problem which should be addressed with some urgency: it will be heavily counterfeited.

There is a simple reasons for being so certain of this. First, of course, there is always a lot of counterfeiting about. If you doubt that, just try to spend a £50 note. Even £20 notes are regularly checked, by machines of varying adequacy, in stores, boutiques and bars.

Most counterfeited is the dollar, for obvious reasons: it is conveniently negotiable almost anywhere, it has high denominations and it is a surprisingly simple, two-colour note.

The Bureau of Engraving and Printing in Washington has only recently upgraded its integral security. While most countries in this century opted to improve the security quality of their banknotes, the US has preferred to spend its money on the FBI. Anti-counterfeiting has always been one of the FBI's main duties. Inside the US, it claims great success. Outside, it is entirely another matter.

There are about 80 billion bankotes produced each year for the 186 currency issuing authorities in 124 countries. Of these, 51 have their own state printing works. Banknotes for the other 135 are produced by 14 privately owned companies. Surprisingly, some of the poorest countries in the world have some of the finest bankotes. Insecure governments can be among the easiest prey to sales pressure from the private companies.

Concern about the security of banknotes, though, is sound sense. After all, they are just scraps of paper. One of the basic economics textbooks (*Benhams Economics*) points out that paper money could be seen "as a gigantic confidence trick". Quite so, but as long as people believe in those little "scraps of paper" it all works.

That is why counterfeiting is so deadly. It undermines the confidence in the bits of paper. In 1991 President Mobutu in Zaire introduced a new high-denomination note to pay his soldiers. However, it was rumoured among the soldiers that it was counterfeit currency printed in South America. They went on the rampage, closed down Kinshasa for three days and more than 300 people died. People have to believe in the bits of paper.

Because it is so important to sustain this belief, governments, banks and security forces are notoriously reticent about counterfeiting. From official comments you would think it hardly went on. So why the difficulties spending some notes? Why all the testing machines next to the tills?

The euro will undoubtedly be designed to be one of the most secure currencies in the world. Most of the 11 participating countries have their own state printing works, or an excellent private company, in their territory. So why should it be so vulnerable to counterfeiting? The answer lies in a small document produced by a little-known, non-profit organisation based in Zurich. The Association Internationale des Imprimeurs Fiduciares (AIIF). It was founded by the privately owned banknote printers. All 14 such printers in Europe, North America, Canada and South America are members.

The permanent Secretariat organises regular conferences to consider all aspects of security printing. Guest speakers from Interpol, central banks, the FBI and various other organisations attend. Collectively the companies themselves represent the greatest concentration of security printing expertise in the world.

The AIIF publishes very little, apart from comprehensive internal minutes, papers, etc. But a few years ago it did publish a prestigious small booklet entitled *The Production of Security Documents*. It was an extremely carefully worded affair, which the organisation, with its obsession with secrecy and confidentiality, agonised about even producing. It is an extract from this which is directly relevant to the concerns expressed about the euro and counterfeiting.



Forger's dream: it will take euroland citizens a long time to gain an instinctive feel for the notes

It reads: "The main aim for all those concerned with the production of security documents is to present to the would-be counterfeiter or forger a number of obstacles to defeat his intentions while at the same time affording the man in the street a simple means of establishing the genuineness of the documents without the aid of technical apparatus."

The struggle to find the "simple means" has intensified as criminals have gained access to new technology, six-colour photocopiers, improved photographic equipment, computer graphics and more. Inexorably, the need to rely on "the aid of technical apparatus" has become obvious.

There are no technical means of validating banknotes on the spot. Any counterfeiter worth his salt will produce something to get past the little machines next to the till.

All the security devices on even the best banknotes can be effectively replicated by commonly available printing and repro machinery. Even holograms are widely available now and can be copied by hot-foil stamping, a commonplace process in the packaging industry.

The banks do have machinery capable of validation, but that is a case of closing the stable door after the horse has bolted. By the time it gets to the bank, the note has already been used.

So the real bulwark against counterfeiting is "the man in the street". Millions of them, who instinctively know in most cases, though they may not be able to explain exactly why, that a note is not right. Something about the feel, the colour, the curl, or even the smell. These permanent "validators" have come to know their banknotes over a period of years and have watched them evolve as extra security features have been added to them (few countries totally change all their currency in one hit). The issuing authorities have to depend on that.

The euro will not have that advantage. It will be completely unfamiliar to 300 million people. It is a pan-national construct, with many of the symbols not easily recognised. The Governments involved will be anxious that it is accepted unquestioningly and used immediately. No one will want to admit to anything untoward to undermine it. It will take the citizens of euroland a year or two before they develop that instinctive feel for the notes.

That is a counterfeiter's heaven. Criminals in Turkey, Russia, Europe, Hong Kong and Latin America are probably already preparing for the launch. Talk of bringing that launch forward from 2002 to 2000 render the problem pressing. Even if it remains at the later date there is still not much time.

But what can be done? First, tell the general public the whole story of the security built into the notes. Educate them. Use newspapers, magazines and television to point out what these features are. The old worry that this is too much of a risk because it "informs" counterfeiters is untenable: counterfeiters will scrutinise the notes under microscopes and light sources to discover all they need to know, if they have not already got the information from their own sources.

The second measure is for the EU to recognise the need for a European "FBI". The obvious step would be an expansion of Interpol. To prevent a large problem in the first few years, a dedicated, well-equipped organisation needs to be in place before launch.

Thirdly, but probably politically unacceptable, severely limit the number of factories where the notes are produced, ideally to one location. Having printing sites all over Europe is a security nightmare.

Whether this all has to be done in three years, or one if the launch is brought forward, someone should be doing something now.

Jeff Stuart is former managing director of Harrison & Sons, the security printer which is now part of De La Rue.

SB chief still haunted by ghost of Glaxo

It's almost enough to drive Jan Leschly to despair — if that were conceivable for SmithKline Beecham's perennially upbeat chief executive.

The pharmaceuticals group yesterday announced a revised strategy, ambitious profit forecasts for the next three years, $2 billion (£1.2 billion) of disposals that will cut employee numbers by a quarter, a shake-up of manufacturing and purchasing that will save £200 million a year — and its results for 1998.

Yet for many in the London stock market this does not change the single most important issue: the possibility of SB being taken over. Mr Leschly says London is "hung-up" on last year's failed merger with Glaxo Wellcome. The world has moved on: his real concern is keeping pace with fast-growing American companies such as Pfizer and Warner-Lambert. Unfortunately, most of SB's shareholders are in the UK and it is hard to see yesterday's announcements as anything other than a strategic response to the world post-Glaxo.

One rival said: "Jan's had a pretty hard beating from the institutions over the past year. I think they feel they've got to deliver good growth to satisfy their shareholders — otherwise the issue of Glaxo Wellcome would keep emerging to haunt them."

SB is aiming to improve underlying earnings by 13 per cent this year, and to accelerate growth to the mid-to-high teens in 2000 and 2001. Seroxat/Paxil, the £1 billion-a-year anti-depressant, should continue to grow strongly as the group promotes new uses, but much depends on Avandia, a potential diabetes blockbuster scheduled for launch this year.

SB recently bolstered its pipeline by committing £80 million to acquire a treatment for non-Hogkin's lymphoma, now called Bexxar. Mr Leschly also has high hopes for Ariflo for emphysema, for an antibiotic called Factive and for Idoxifene for osteoporosis. However, recent launches have not always met expectations.

Closing and selling some of its 67 manufacturing plants around the world will help. SB expects to shed 3,000 jobs as it tackles a legacy from the original SmithKline Beckman/Beecham merger and the acquisition of Sterling Winthrop.

Streamlined manufacturing and new global purchasing agreements are expected to save £200 million, but they will cost £750 million to implement over the next four years. The savings will help SB to feed its ever-hungry research and development machine.

SB will take a £446 million loss on the sale of Diversified Pharmaceutical Services for $700 million. Ever positive, Mr Leschly said the group had reaped the value from DPS, which manages drug spending on behalf of US employee healthcare plans, but it is hard to see how. Express Scripts, the new owner of DPS, will continue to provide SB with the prescribing information that was one of its principal benefits.

Shorn, too, of Clinical Laboratories, where SB is selling a 70 per cent stake for $1.025 billion, the group is left with its higher-margin businesses in pharmaceuticals and consumer healthcare, which include Aquafresh, Ribena, Panadol and Lucozade.

Individually, SB's moves all look sensible, though whether it can meet its earnings goals is open to question. Many of the world's leading drugs groups are forecast to produce double-digit earnings growth even while they complain about the squeeze on healthcare spending. They cannot all be right.

PAUL DURMAN

Sick joke

A FEW months back, in possibly the most ill-conceived marketing stunt ever, Sony sent out thousands of letters purporting to be the results of urgent medical tests and informing the recipient that these had detected "early stages of a progressive condition".

The spoof "results" were actually plugging the company's computer games. Predictably, a large number were sent to people who really were awaiting the results of cancer screening and other serious medical tests and caused immense distress.

Sony even ignored warnings from the Committee of Advertising Practice not to send the letters out. I was told at the time that the matter was under investigation by the Advertising Standards Authority and action would be taken.

The ASA today publishes its ruling. No fine, not possible, and no severe condemnation — instead Sony is merely told the letters were "unsuitable". An ASA spokesman tells me: "The fact that they have apologised goes a long way as far as we're concerned." So that's all right then.



LEADERS is a glossy management magazine, a sort of corporate Hello!. *And never underestimate the curse of* Hello!, *the tendency of its interviewees to come unstuck subsequently.*

So the latest issue has a heavy hitter on the front, and lots inside about how he is "going places this year". Anyone tempted to feature next time might note that he is Bernd Pischetsrieder, recently ejected as chief executive of BMW.

On the menu

AN APPEAL to all readers, and perhaps a free lunch. Simpson's-in-the-Strand is being refurbished at a cost of £1.7 million, and the management is installing a historical archive there.



So far they have found lots of old documents, pictures and so on, but there is a shortage of menus.

The oldest anyone can find is from 1913, but there must be others stashed away in old trunks or collections of memorabilia. I have negotiated with Simpson's an exclusive deal; any of you with menus predating this will get lunch there in exchange.

Incidentally, I hear that ever since Simpson of Piccadilly, the department store, closed its doors for the last time, Simpson's — no relation, ever — has received a couple of calls a day asking if it is still trading.

Room & board

THE uncertainty surrounding Electra Investment Trust has delayed the retirement of its chairman, Michael Stoddart. The trust was forced to report an unsolicited approach from 3i a couple of weeks ago, and Stoddart will now stick around until the situation is resolved.

The approach has also caused some problems for the forthcoming annual meeting, which should have been followed by Stoddart's retirement. Electra had hired a small suite at the Howard Hotel, just big enough to accommodate the board, advisers and the handful of shareholders expected. Anyone who turns up there will now be redirected up the road to rather larger premises at the Savoy.

ANY change in ownership can be unsettling for the workforce, admits Gary Ashworth, who built up his recruitment business Abacus by means of frequent acquisitions and then sold it last year. You have to be careful how you announce the news.

He tells Real Business *what he believes to be best practice. "The owner simply faced the whole company and said, I've sold the business. I then stood up and said, Hi, I'm your new boss."*

Core business

THERE is life after Two Dogs for Richard Purdey, the former chairman of Merrydown, who left the company after a boardroom shake-out last summer. He has reverted to an earlier, gentler calling and is making and selling fruit wines and apple juice from the company's former off-licence at its home town of Horam, East Sussex.

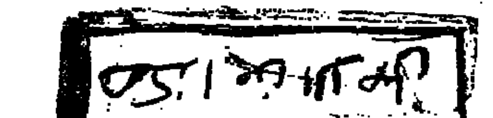
Purdey, who a few years ago returned as chairman of James Purdey & Sons, the gunmaker, even though his family sold the business in 1946, has set up his own company, the aptly named Both Barrels, to market elderberry and other wines and mead.

"I used to have a film about Merrydown fruit wines which I took around Women's Institutes and town guilds," Purdey recalls. "Then, the image was all *Arsenic and Old Lace*. Thirty five years on, people are far more adventurous."

MARTIN WALLER
city.diary@the-times.co.uk



Purdey: rolling out both barrels



Equities lose early lead

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

1998/99 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
646	385	Allied Domecq	465	- 5	5.4	12.2
412½	282	Barney (HP)†	383½	..	6.6	12.7
42½	7	Burn Stewart	14			
795	432	Diageo	649	- 2½	3.1	19.6
300	625	Glenmorangie A	887½	+ 32½	2.6	18.7
325	225	Highland Dist	252½	..	4.6	11.5
59½	18½	Merrydown W	27	- 1		
2021¼	725	SA Breweries	1021¼	- 40½	3.5	15.5

BANKS

1998/99 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
1618½	893½	ABN-AMRO	1231¼	- 37½	3.2	14.9
1390	860	Abbey Nat	1134	- 17	3.6	16.7
1032	585	Alliance & Leic	744	- 4	3.8	14.0
1262½	587½	Allied Irish	1105	- 9	1.7	30.8
458¼	293½	Aus New Z	410	- 7½	5.0	..

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

BUILDING MATERIALS

CHEMICALS

CONSTRUCTION

DISTRIBUTORS

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

ELECTRICITY

ELECTRONIC & ELECT

ENGINEERING

ENGINEERING, VEHICLES

FOOD MANUFACTURERS

HEALTHCARE

HOUSEHOLD GDS & TEXT

INSURANCE

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

LEISURE & HOTELS

MEDIA

PHARMACEUTICALS

MINING

OIL & GAS

OTHER FINANCIAL

PRINTING & PAPER

PROPERTY

RETAILERS, FOOD

RETAILERS, GENERAL

SUPPORT SERVICES

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

TRANSPORT

WATER

ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET

SHORTS (under 5 years)

MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)

LONGS (over 15 years)

UNDATED

INDEX-LINKED on projected inflation of: 5% 3%

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
AIB GOVETT UNIT TRUST LTD				
0171 378 7979 Dealing: 0171 407 7868				
Protected Funds				
UK Safeguard	143.27	152.68	+ 0.33	
-do- NAV to Jun 19	140.39	140.30		
UK Equity Safeguard	114.43	122.39		
-do- NAV to Mar 19	118.98	110.98	− 0.75	2.82
US Eqy Safeguard	96.33	102.39		
Cash	951.43	956.19†	− 0.83	6.25
UK Growth Funds				
UK Equity Gen	417.88	444.55	+ 0.60	1.80
UK Small Cos	88.14	94.26	+ 0.52	0.50
FTSE 250 Index	104.93	112.22	− 0.25	1.89
Geared UK Index	#22.752	#24.018	+ 0.19	5.75
Income Funds				
Corp Bd	88.49	81.46	− 0.13	6.66
Monthly Inc	44.11	47.18†	+ 0.08	7.98
International Funds				
American Gen	367.73	388.70	− 2.87	0.17
American Smr	179.01	190.98	− 2.52	
JS US Index	#28.916	#30.464	− 0.27	4.50
European Gen	440.87	466.08	− 0.73	
European Smr	214.87	230.83	− 1.82	
Japan Gen	104.98	111.89	− 2.25	...
Asia Pacific	59.88	63.93	− 0.89	1.09
Pacific Smr	82.84	88.50†	− 0.93	...
Greater China	138.19	147.79	− 0.73	...
Latin America	55.00	58.83	− 0.61	...
Jnr Growth	196.03	208.65	− 1.63	0.11
Balanced Exempt	181.51	188.89		2.18
Global Strategy	47.40	50.70	− 0.84	
AXA EQUITY & LAW UNIT TST MGRS				
01203 653 231				
AXA Equity & Law Unit Trst				
Balanced Acc	81.72	86.84	− 0.38	1.75
Balanced Inc	73.42	78.11	− 0.34	1.75
Brit Excell	127.80	135.70	− 0.88	2.34
Brit Frndmts Acc	164.50	175.08	− 0.10	4.08
Brit Frndmts Inc	102.00	108.50	− 0.10	4.06
Europe	564.50	600.58	− 8.49	0.30
General Acc	943.00	1003.80	− 5.00	2.54
General Inc	754.70	802.80	− 4.30	2.54
Gilts/Fxd Int Acc	272.40	287.50	+ 0.80	5.07
Gilts/Fxd Int Inc	108.18	114.10	+ 0.30	5.07
Global Opps	133.80	142.10	− 2.18	0.56
Higher Inc Acc #	1187.00	1263.00	− 6.80	4.42
Higher Inc Inc #	587.30	624.70	− 3.18	4.42
Japan Acc	34.24	36.43	− 0.72	...
Nth America	539.00	573.40	− 0.90	...
Pac Basin Acc	262.90	279.70	− 2.70	0.83
UK Growth Acc	644.40	685.50	− 3.10	2.17
UK Growth Inc	399.20	424.70	− 1.90	2.17
AXA Sun Life Trusts				
Discretionary	66.64	70.89	− 0.49	
Extra Inc Inc #	42.29	44.69†	− 0.12	5.60
High Yld Inc	119.10	126.70†	+ 0.10	2.57
Inc & Gth Inc	116.10	123.50	− 0.70	2.27
Pacific Gth Port	32.02	34.06	− 0.40	0.80
UK Income Inc	81.32	86.51†	− 0.31	2.23
UK Smaller Cos	43.22	45.98	+ 0.10	1.96
ABBEY UNIT TST MGRS				
0845 717 373				
Gilts & Fixed Int	161.60	171.50†	+ 0.40	5.19
High Inc Equity	238.70	255.30†	+ 0.60	3.60
Worldwide Bond	288.90	307.40†	− 0.10	3.74
American Growth	668.70	713.70†	− 4.30	0.19
Asian Pacific	186.08	198.90	− 2.80	0.62
Assets & Earnings	369.30	390.60	+ 0.70	1.82
Euro Capital Acc	304.80	325.10	− 0.60	0.29
Extra Inc	40.84	43.23†	...	8.56
General	330.80	351.90†	+ 1.40	2.82
Global Opps	80.85	86.01†	− 0.45	0.36

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
CANADA LIFE MNGT (UK) LTD				
01707 622 160				
Can Gen Dist	309.00	327.50†	− 2.00	1.82
-do- Income Dist	178.20	189.30	− 1.10	2.74
-do- Accum	585.90	621.80	− 3.70	2.74
Gilt & Fxd Int	48.32	50.77†	+ 0.13	3.99
Growth Units	370.60	395.60	− 2.38	1.18
Bond	210.40	221.70	− 0.10	4.50
Intl Growth	270.00	286.00	− 3.30	0.11
North American	414.50	438.90	− 3.40	...
Far East	162.70	173.60	− 4.30	0.98
UK Smaller Cos	272.10	291.00	+ 0.50	1.16
European	139.10	147.80	− 2.10	0.14
Japanese Growth	28.66	30.25	− 0.30	
High Income	298.00	318.69	− 1.90	2.78
CAPEL-CURE MYERS UT MGMT LTD				
0161 831 7420 Enq 0161 831 7420 Dlg 0161 831 7405				
American & Gen	365.70	387.80	+ 0.20	...
European Inc	164.40	164.00	− 2.80	...
Smaller Cos (4-1)	110.80	118.00	+ 0.60	2.10
Growth	733.20	780.00	− 4.80	1.17
Income & Growth #	572.30	608.90	− 4.30	4.62
-do- Accum #	948.40	1009.00	− 7.20	4.52
Japan & Gen	51.29	54.21	− 1.08	...
Hallmark Gwth	1707.00	1779.00†	− 8.80	0.86
-do- Accum	2174.00	2265.00	− 10.00	0.86
Special Sits	168.50	179.30†	− 1.10	1.17
High Yield	1862.00	1941.00	− 14.00	3.66
CAZENOVE UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
0171 606 0708				
Cazenove Portfolio	124.14	131.92†	− 0.18	2.03
American Portfolio	200.89	212.53	− 1.92	0.29
European Portfolio	220.50	234.49	− 4.16	0.23
High Income	59.89	63.27†	+ 0.11	5.75
Japanese Portfolio	47.27	50.07†	− 0.70	..
Pacific Portfolio	101.70	108.38	− 1.32	1.76
UK Equity	121.87	129.70	− 0.98	1.68
UK Equity & Bd	72.42	76.82	...	5.17
UK Smlr Cos	51.12	54.68	+ 0.71	2.22
CBF CHURCH OF ENGLAND FUNDS				
0171 588 1815				
Inv Fd Inc	1048.44	1064.28	− 21.80	3.27
Inv Fd Acc	1121.40	1138.43	− 28.76	...
Fxd Int Sec Inc	180.46	181.20	− 1.49	7.86
Fxd Int Sec Acc	207.82	208.68	− 1.72	...
CGU TRUST MGRS LTD				
Admin/Dlng 0845 6072430 Cust Enq 0845 6072430				
PRESTIGE PORTFOLIO (PPT FUNDS)				
Income Funds				
Equity Inc	245.10	255.34	− 0.40	4.25
Long Gilt	61.28	63.77†	+ 0.37	4.19
Monthly Inc Plus	84.71	87.41	+ 0.05	6.65
-do- Accum	83.62	87.11	+ 0.07	6.65
Preference Share	63.16	65.80†	− 0.70	5.93
Balanced Funds				
High Yield	182.78	198.42†	− 0.21	5.31
Managed Fund	97.32	101.91	− 0.25	2.42
UK Growth Funds				
Smaller Cos	47.16	49.13	+ 0.54	1.29
-do- Accum	56.88	59.24	+ 0.65	1.29
UK & General	133.86	139.24	− 0.55	2.08
-do- Accum	182.82	190.62	− 0.75	2.00
UK Growth	268.64	279.88	− 1.18	1.26
International Growth Funds				
Europe Growth	378.85	392.59	− 4.40	..
Far Eastern Gth	90.85	93.70	− 1.48	0.38
Global Bond	77.23	80.46	− 0.09	4.77
Japan Growth	85.05	88.60	− 1.86	...

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Fd of Inv Tsts	58.92	63.91	− 0.02	..
High Income #	68.53	73.08	− 0.35	4.11
Financial Opps	77.75	82.92	+ 0.01	0.74
Growth & Income #	56.05	59.77	− 0.06	2.18
Global Opps	56.12	59.85	− 0.68	0.74
LAURENCE KEEN UNIT TRUST MGMT				
0171 588 8800				
Bridge Income #	412.86	439.21	+ 2.45	4.52
Ewk Growth	145.98	155.30	− 4.76	0.51
Inc & Growth	100.07	106.46†	− 0.28	3.05

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
-do- Accum	157.30	160.20†	+ 1.10	1.99
Sth East Asia	219.10	231.70	− 1.80	2.10
-do- Accum	302.80	320.30	− 2.40	2.10
UK Equity #	79.40	84.00†	− 0.20	3.28
-do- Accum #	234.60	248.20†	− 0.60	3.28
UK Growth	1542.50	1631.20	− 9.00	1.51
-do- Accum	1768.40	1870.20	− 10.30	1.51
MGM UNIT MANAGERS LTD				
Dealing: 01277 281 010 Enq: 01903 204 631				
European Growth	168.74	179.51	− 1.95	0.24

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Smaller Cos	116.45	123.88	+ 0.69	1.57
Eur Spec Sit Inc	57.20	60.85	+ 0.52	2.40
Eur Spec Sit Acc	61.68	65.62	+ 0.57	2.40
Pension Growth	56.51	60.12	+ 0.07	1.47
LAZARD UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
Dealing: 0870 6066408				
UK Cap	583.80	619.40†	− 3.40	1.37
UK Inc/Gth #	613.80	649.10†	− 3.09	3.32
UK Income #	418.70	442.70†	− 2.30	4.44
UK Income Acc #	444.20	471.30†	− 2.50	4.44

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Intl Bond	65.87	69.22	+ 0.03	2.67
Intl Equity Growth	113.22	120.14	− 1.16	0.30
N Amer Growth	218.06	231.29	− 1.18	0.19
Special Sits Growth	39.34	41.85	+ 0.12	1.11
UK Growth	641.81	682.77	+ 2.80	1.53
-do- Accum	923.81	981.92	+ 4.02	1.53
NEW JOINT INVESTORS LTD				
01628 825067				
Balanced Fd #	1542.70	1565.20	.	2.90
Income #	1306.20	1328.30	.	3.90

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Fixed Interest #	103.57	110.00†	+ 0.01	6.65
Index Linked Gilt	97.96	103.89	+ 0.07	1.01
VIRGIN DIRECT PFS LTD				
0345 959595				
Income Trust	123.46	129.46	− 0.20	4.30
Pens Growth	142.02	142.02†	...	..
Pens Inc Protct	133.07	133.07†		..
UK Index Tracking @	178.59	178.88	− 1.50	1.70
WHITTINGDALE UNIT TST MGMT LTD				
0171 623 2444				
Short Dtd Gilt	139.50	141.10	− 0.10	
US Govt Bd (US$)	0.8462	0.8550	+ 0.02	
Gilt Income	56.15	57.02	+ 0.05	5.20
Gilt Growth	101.90	103.60	+ 0.10	
Sterling Bond	57.26	58.27	+ 0.13	5.30
WOOLWICH UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0181 298 4000				
Intl Mgd	74.05	78.71	− 0.84	1.53
UK Stockmarket	146.60	155.90†	− 1.30	1.85
Corporate Bd Inc	54.15	54.32	+ 0.09	3.50
-do- Accum	61.60	61.79	+ 0.10	3.50

Source FT Information

* Yield expressed as CAR (Compound Annual Return). † Ex dividend; ‡ Middle price. [illegible] No significant data. # Periodic charge deducted from capital. @ Exit charge

Tony Dawe introduces a two-page report on the drive to cut down on fuel consumption by making our homes more cost-effective

Why bills are going through the roof

With snow falling across much of Britain this week, the nation's fuel bills will be rising as we all strive to keep warm.

Turning up the central heating, putting more coal on the fire and running fan heaters in the colder parts of the home are all essential as the temperature drops below zero outside.

Yet few people realise that they can balance this inevitable increase in their bills with a few economy measures.

Households in Britain are estimated to waste £6.5 billion every year on energy, equivalent to £278 for each household or 100 times the cost of combating the current cold snap. The estimate comes from the Energy Savings Trust, set up by the Government to promote energy efficiency. Its research also found that most householders are ignorant about the savings they can achieve.

The trust is now trying to get the message across with a series of leaflets, an energy efficiency hotline and website and free do-it-yourself home energy checks. Saving energy in the home will also form part of a new £7 million campaign by the Environment Department.

Eoin Lees, the trust's chief executive, says: "By becoming more energy-efficient, the average household can reduce fuel bills by up to 40 per cent. Our initiative has been created to help to build awareness of the financial and environmental benefits of being wise with energy around the home."

Alan Meale, the Energy Efficiency Minister, believes that simple economies around the home will help the whole environment. "If you burn energy when you don't need to and run water and waste it, you are not only building up extra bills but contributing to the demise of our society," he says.

"We must get the message across that saving energy is common sense, good business practice and costs you less.



Meale: new initiative

"With the help of manufacturers, we have reduced the wattage used by appliances on standby for a day from ten to six," Mr Meale says. "With further co-operation and the help of the public, we aim to get the figure down to a single watt."

For more significant savings, the trust reports that an investment of between £250 and £500 could reduce householders' energy bills by up to a quarter. Grants of up to £400 are available.

Condensing boilers, for example, are the most efficient in producing warmth and hot water as they convert an average 85 per cent of fuel into heat. They cost £300 more than an ordinary boiler but an Energy Efficiency grant of £200 will help to reduce the investment, which should save more than £100 a year in fuel bills.

Cavity wall insulation costs an average £550 but a £200 grant is also available to help with the cost of installing it, a measure which the trust claims cuts heat loss by up to 60 per cent and saves a third of fuel costs.

Building societies have discovered that helping borrowers to save money on fuel bills has become a way of attracting business. The Woolwich offers an energy saver mortgage which includes a package of efficient domestic appliances and energy-saving lightbulbs, while Norwich & Peterborough's green mortage includes a 1 per cent discount for two years and £1,000 cashback towards home improvements.

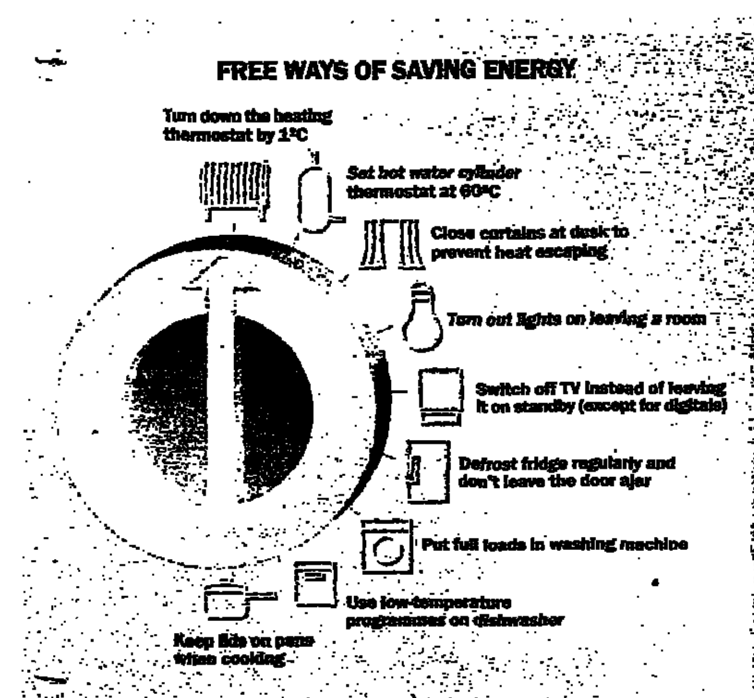
Home Energy Efficiency Scheme grants are also available to people on benefit and have helped to improve nearly three million homes since they were introduced in 1991. "Each household helped has seen its fuel costs reduced by an average of £45 a year, with greater savings for those with cavity wall or loft insulation installed," Mr Meale says.

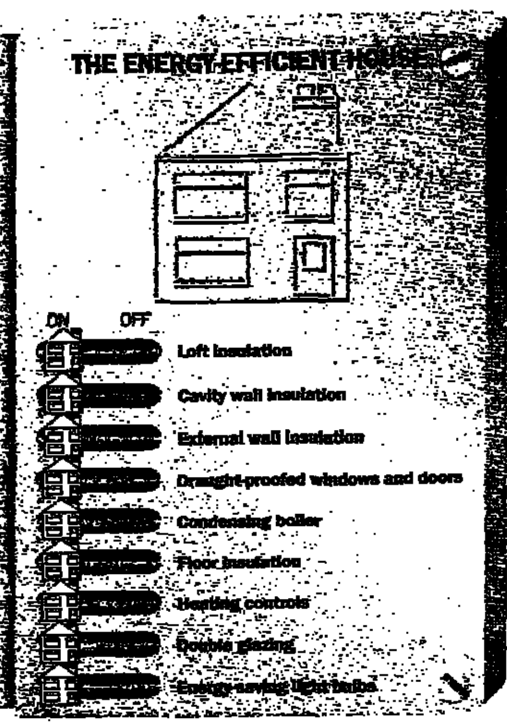
The minister is concerned, however, that the scheme is not reaching the poorest members of society who cannot afford to heat their homes properly let alone afford efficiency measures, and has launched a new initiative to help them.

"People in the poverty trap burn a lot of fuel because they want to get warm quickly but much of the heat escapes through the roof," he says. "They do not have the choices which other people have. They buy second-hand white goods, which are the least efficient."

As MP for Mansfield in the heart of the Nottinghamshire coalfield, Mr Meale knows how difficult it is to get the efficiency message across. "Many constituents were used to free coal and liked having a fire in the grate all day and feeding the boiler so that could get hot water in the morning," he says. "Now that they are on gas and electricity, they expect the same heat but haven't learnt to use it economically."

Mr Meale regrets that his ministerial lifestyle hardly aids the energy campaign, as he travels by car to keep to a tight timetable. He does his bit at home, however, by building a compost heap with vegetable and garden waste and planting trees to supplement oxygen in the atmosphere.





Save and help the world

Using energy more efficiently has a beneficial effect on global warming as well as our wallets

An eye-catching poster showing a boy and girl jumping for joy beside a block of flats will soon be appearing in our newspapers and on the streets.

A thought bubble in the blue sky above the children proclaims: "This bit of the atmosphere was helped by Mrs Rumney of Carlisle who turns off lights which saves energy and helps fight global warming."

The poster will be part of a £7 million "Are You Doing Your Bit?" campaign by the Environment Department to persuade everyone to do something towards saving fuel and helping the world.

The Energy Saving Trust, set up by the Government to promote energy efficiency, says: "It has never been easier to save money on fuel bills. Do you know, for instance, that in most homes lighting accounts for 10 to 15 per cent of the electricity bill? And what about letterboxes and keyholes? Did you know that they could save you money?"

Alan Meale, the Energy Efficiency Minister, adds: "If we can persuade people to do something as simple as switching off electrical appliances at the mains and buying a long-life lightbulb which lasts for years and uses less wattage, it will get them in the mood to think about other ways of saving energy and of buying efficient products."

Stroll around the home tonight and identify ten simple measures which cost nothing but could start an energy-saving habit that could save more than £100 a year. Just drawing the curtains so the heat doesn't escape through the windows can save £15 a year in the average three-bedroom semi-detached house. Turning out lights on leaving a room and switching off the television instead of leaving it on standby (unless it is a digital TV) are obvious ways of saving a few pounds. Adjusting the heating will achieve more substantial savings.

> 'It has never been easier to save money on fuel bills'

Turn down the central heating thermostat by 1C and the fuel bill will be reduced by between £15 and £30 a year. Set the hot water cylinder thermostat at 60C, which is quite adequate for bathing and washing, and a similar saving will be achieved. Just making sure the hot water is not running before the plug is put in the basin will save pounds.

It is the kitchen, however, which offers the the greatest opportunity for cutting energy costs. Put just enough water for your needs in the kettle instead of filling it to the brim; choose the correct size pan for the food and cooker and keep lids on while cooking and, if you have a dishwasher, run it on a low-temperature programme. The refrigerator can be a real money waster. If you place it next to a cooker or boiler, it will have to work harder.

Don't leave the fridge door open for longer than necessary and defrost it regularly to keep it running efficiently. Both teams on a recent edition of University Challenge were baffled by the question: if you put cold water or boiling water in the freezer unit, which will freeze first?

The answer is the boiling water because the freezer works harder to cool it down, using a lot of energy in the process. The lesson is to avoid putting hot food straight into the fridge/freezer and allow it to cool first.

Washing machines should always be full for the sake of energy efficiency but, if that is not possible, use the half-load or economy programme. Modern washing powders also work effectively at low temperatures and so further reduce costs.

Consumers may become so pleased at the savings they can achieve for nothing, they may be prepared to spend money to cut costs even further. Energy-saving lightbulbs, an insulating jacket for the hot water tank and seals for exterior doors are all cheap to buy and the extra money will be recouped within months by the amount saved on fuel bills.

Even keyholes and letterboxes can let in draughts and let out heat. Put a cover over the keyhole and fit a nylon brush seal or a spring flap behind the letterbox ... but warn the paperboy first.

TONY DAWE

Now green PCs are really cool

The rapid growth in demand for the latest technology has made the energy used by personal computers and other office equipment one of the fastest-growing sources of electricity consumption in businesses and homes.

It accounts for more than 7 per cent of the electricity used in offices in America, yet much of it is wasted because equipment sits idle for long periods throughout the day as well as overnight and at weekends.

To tackle this problem, the US Environmental Protection Agency launched the Energy Star programme in partnership with manufacturers so that consumers could identify energy-efficient products. The mark has become a globally recognised seal of approval for environmentally aware hardware and now appears on products such as monitors, printers and scanners.

Most of the world's largest PC manufacturers are well aware of the financial as well as environmental benefits of supplying "green" computers. IBM has a dedicated Engineering Centre for Environmentally Conscious Products and is discussing ways in which to market more aggressively the environmental aspect of their products to consumers. Compaq, Gateway and most other recognised PC brands are Energy Star partners.

Such computers still vary enormously in their power consumption: some use as little as 1.5 watts in "sleep" mode, while others are close to the 30-watt limit. Laptops are the most energy-efficient because they have to survive for long periods using only batteries. Most new desktop computers now have some built-in power-saving measures.

Systems that have been upgraded to include large numbers of components consume the most power. Many conventional PCs have power supplies rated at more than 250 watts and these waste more energy "ticking over" than less powerful ones. As most home PCs are seldom upgraded, they could happily run on a power supply of half the size.

LINTON DAWE

Heat is on for change

Energy-conserving houses may open up a builders' market for the future, says Stephen Hoare

If you want to save energy, live close to the earth. The Hockerton Housing Project, Britain's first earth-sheltered housing development, takes energy saving to the limit.

Massively insulated, and buried beneath a landscaped earth mound, the houses use just 10 per cent of the energy of a conventional home. But for lack of planning permission, they could supply all of their needs from a renewable source in their own backyard — a wind turbine.

The home is a constant 20C (69F) even in winter and has no need for central heating. Nick White, a project member, says: "Earth is a good insulator. A foot down, the temperature of the ground lags three months behind the surface temperature. It's warmer in winter and cooler in summer." If that fails to capture your imagination then Carol Vorderman has just finished presenting a television series, *Dream House* for BBC1, explaining the joys of living in a solar-heated, high-energy rated house. Called the Integer house, short for intelligent and green, its architect Nick Thompson, of Cole Thompson Associates, believes these dwellings are our future. "We are reducing energy consumption by up to 40 per cent," he says.

> 'We are now reducing energy levels by up to 40%'

Both projects are one-offs. Hockerton is a self-build scheme. Designed by the architects Robert and Brenda Vale, the Hockerton Houses were built by a group of people who raised the finance, managed the whole building process and converted their loan into a mortgage from the Co-op Bank. Integer is a pilot project on trial for social housing where reduced running costs are a high priority.

To save energy, houses do not have to look like a mound of earth or a greenhouse. Timber-frame construction or high insulation of masonry buildings means that energy saving comes in all shapes and sizes. To the housebuyer, the big appeal of energy-efficient homes has to be reduced running costs. However, housebuilders are reluctant to change tack. They claim the extra cost of energy saving features would make their houses too expensive in a competitive market. Their research shows that buyers are more influenced by location, design, luxury kitchens and bathrooms and the quality of finishes. Future running costs come way down the list.

The Government has changed the industry's perception by promoting the Standard Assessment Procedure (Sap) which measures the energy efficiency of new homes on a scale of 1 to 100. Sap 80+ is the benchmark for environmentally conscious building. Besides Sap, the Government has been using legislation and from 2000 revised building regulations will tighten the minimum standards of insulation and thermal efficiency. Builders are slowly coming round to the view that reduced running costs may be a selling point.

Martin Stamp, Wimpey Homes' design director, says: "Roofs, floors and walls are now insulated to a far higher standard than a few years ago. The argument is now new homes versus existing homes."

Mr Stamp dismisses the Government's attempts to pressure housebuilders as misplaced and he believes the Sap scheme is flawed. He blames energy-intensive white goods. "Over half the energy used in the home comes not from heat loss, but from the use of appliances."

Smaller builders, however, have been quick to spot a market opening up. Linden Homes, (South East) of Caterham, Surrey, and Morris Homes, of Newton le Willows, Greater Manchester, are among those designing all their new homes to a Sap 80+ specification — and finding them popular with buyers.



Integer house, built as a project to study energy efficiency

TEN HOT TIPS

- Increase the depth of loft insulation to at least eight inches (200mm).
- If your home was built after 1930, cavity wall insulation will reduce heat loss by up to 60 per cent.
- Change to energy-saving lightbulbs — they will use less power and last eight times longer.
- If your boiler is 15 years old or unreliable, replace it and save 10-15 per cent on your fuel bill.
- Add controls to your central heating and cut your costs by 20 per cent.
- Fit an insulating jacket to your hot water tank if it is not foam covered.
- Invest in draught excluders for letterboxes, doors and windows to reduce warm air escaping.
- A shower uses only 40 per cent of hot water needed for a bath.
- Close your curtains at dusk to stop heat escaping.
- Wait until you have a full load before using your washing machine.

How to get a grant

This winter, homeowners are being targeted by a media campaign to persuade them to insulate their houses and fit more efficient heating and controls. The Energy Saving Trust, a government-sponsored body, is giving £200 grants towards the cost of installing cavity wall insulation or a gas condensing boiler. It is also promoting a free booklet on energy-saving tips and a website.

There is, of course, no certainty that investing in home improvements will pay off. Typical annual savings on fuel bills for cavity wall insulation and gas condensing boilers are between £75 to £150 a year. But it takes four years to repay the cost of installation, and waiting lists for the work to be done as the February cut-off approaches are lengthening.

With the Government anxious to meet its targets for reducing greenhouse gases, there are many grants available for improvements. The Council for Energy Efficiency Development, which covers trade bodies, recommends that people approach its approved contractors as they will know of grants on offer.

The Energy Saving Trust also administers the Energy Saving Standards of Performance scheme on behalf of regional electricity companies, who pay a levy of £1 per customer. A collective pot of £102 million is being spent in three main ways — an offer of up to £50 of Iceland frozen food vouchers when you buy certain energy-efficient fridges, Fridge Savers available to low-income families who swap their old fridge for a new model free of charge and promotions of free-issue low energy lightbulbs and subsidised light fittings.

From annual sales of a few thousand a couple of years ago, figures for gas condensing boilers are now at 40,000 a year. The grant means there is a price differential of just £100 between an old-style gas boiler and the new type. For people on low income, grants are available from the Home Energy Efficiency Scheme administered by the Energy Action Grants Agency. People on state benefit are eligible for grants of up to £315 to cover the cost of loft insulation, draught proofing, or cavity wall insulation. And anyone aged over 60 will get £78.75 and the full grant if they are also on benefit.

Under another government scheme, Home Repairs Assistance, owner-occupiers and private sector tenants in England and Wales receiving income-related benefit can apply for up to £4,000 over three years for big improvements, such as external wall insulation or energy measures including cavity wall and gas condensing boilers.

- *Council for Energy Efficiency Development 01428 654011; Energy Savings Trust: 0345-277 200; Energy Action Grants Agency: Freepost PO Box 130 Newcastle upon Tyne NE99 2RP*

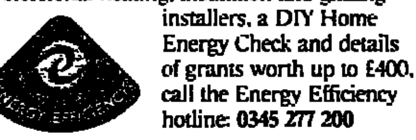
EXCLUSIVE PRIZE DRAW THE TIMES

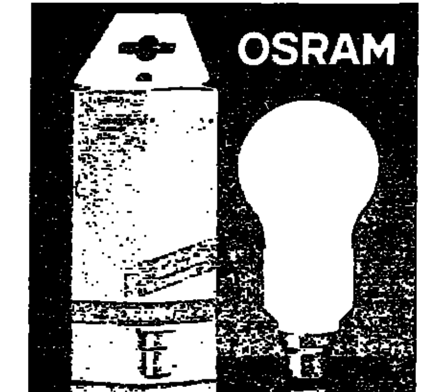
1,000 energy-saving lightbulbs to be won

Today, *The Times* offers readers the chance to win one of 1,000 OSRAM DULUX® EL CLASSIC energy-saving light bulbs, worth £8.99 each. In addition, every reader who enters our prize draw will receive a free Energy Efficiency information pack.

OSRAM DULUX® EL CLASSIC energy-saving light bulbs consume less than 30 per cent of the electricity used by an ordinary light bulb of similar light output and last up to 12 times longer. Unlike other longlife bulbs, the traditional shape of the OSRAM bulb allows it to be used practically anywhere, and is ideal for hallways, living rooms and children's bedrooms where lights need to be on for long periods.

The Energy Efficiency information pack is full of energy-saving ideas. For a list of local professional heating, insulation and glazing installers, a DIY Home Energy Check and details of grants worth up to £400, call the Energy Efficiency hotline: 0345 277 200

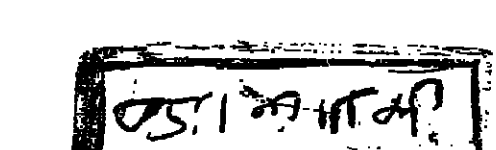




HOW TO ENTER Send your name, address and daytime telephone number on a postcard to: *The Times*/OSRAM Prize Draw, Freepost, LON7736, London SE16 2BR to arrive by first post on Wednesday, February 24, 1999.

Entrants must be UK residents aged 18 or over. If you do not wish to receive offers from companies carefully selected by *The Times*, mark the top left hand corner of your entry with a cross. Winners will be chosen at random from all entries received. Normal TNL rules apply.

CHANGING TIMES



Copyright dispute over Dutch building

Pearce v Ove Arup Partnership Ltd and Others

Before Lord Justice Roch, Lord Justice Chadwick and Lord Justice May

[Judgment January 21]

An English court was not required to refuse to entertain a claim in respect of alleged infringements of Dutch copyright on the basis that the infringements were not actionable torts under English law.

The Court of Appeal so stated in a reserved judgment when dismissing an application by Gareth Pearce to adduce further evidence, but allowing his appeal against a decision of Mr Justice Lloyd (*The Times* March 17, 1997; [1997] Ch 293).

Mr Pearce had complained of breaches of what he claimed to be his copyright as author of drawings created when an architectural student for a town hall in Docklands which was never built.

He claimed that Mr Rem Koolhas, an architect, and the Office for Metropolitan Architecture, of which he was director, took copies of his drawings and used them in substantial part in designing the Kunsthal in Rotterdam. Ove Arup Partnership Ltd was the civil engineering firm retained for construction of the Kunsthal, owned by the city of Rotterdam.

The judge had declined to strike out allegations of infringement of Dutch copyright on the ground that they were not justiciable under English law, but accepted that on the facts alleged the claim was bound to fail and struck out his whole claim against Ove Arup, Mr Koolhas, Office for Metropolitan Architecture and the city of Rotterdam. Mr Pearce appealed.

Mr Koolhas, OMA and Rotterdam by respondents' notices, contended that the judge's order should be affirmed on the additional ground that the alleged infringements of Dutch copyright against them were not actionable torts under English law.

Miss Julia Clark for Mr Pearce; Ms Heather Lawrence for the first defendant; Mr Christopher Floyd, QC and Mr Richard Hacon for the second to fourth defendants.

LORD JUSTICE ROCH, giving the judgment of the court, said that the first issue was abuse of process.

In striking out the plaintiff's claim on the basis that it was speculative, the judge in essence decided that the claim was bound to fail because no court could ever be persuaded to draw the necessary inference that copies had been made.

The plaintiff applied to adduce further evidence before their Lordships including a portfolio of 18 pairs of drawings, each pair with part of the Docklands drawings overlaid with a transparency of an allegedly comparable part of the Kunsthal drawings.

That application, subject to one gloss, would be refused as the evidence was, or could readily have been, available for the hearing before Mr Justice Lloyd.

The gloss was that their Lordships considered Mr Pearce's portfolio of drawings was receivable, not as additional evidence, but as an explanation of counsel's submissions on his behalf for which leave was not needed.

The portfolio was a clear and helpful forensic aid to the understanding of the plaintiff's case which had put the court at an advantage over Mr Justice Lloyd who had to struggle with the greater difficulty of comparing annotated plans.

It was not usually possible to allege copying other than as a deduction by inference from all the surrounding circumstances: *Copinger and Skone James on Copyright* (13th edition (1991) p168).

In their Lordships' judgment, the judge was not right to conclude that the inferences necessary for the plaintiff's case to succeed could never be drawn. The plaintiff's allegations of similarity were not so fanciful that his claim as a whole should be regarded as speculative. The appeal would be allowed.

The respondents contended that nevertheless the judge's order should be affirmed on the ground that the infringements of Dutch copyright alleged against them were not actionable torts under English law.

Actionability

The relevant inquiry was whether English law permitted the English court, in the present context, to entertain a claim based on the infringement, by acts done in Holland, of a local right conferred in Holland by Dutch law.

That inquiry had to be answered by reference to English private international law rules; in particular, by reference to those rules which, in the light of the provisions of the Civil Jurisdiction and Judgments Act 1982 and the Conventions which, by section 2(1) of that Act, had the force of law in the UK, governed the resolution of disputes in civil and commercial matters between persons domiciled in the contracting states party to those Conventions.

It was accepted that the English court had jurisdiction against all the defendants: see articles 2 and 6(1) of the Convention on Jurisdiction and the Enforcement of Judgments in Civil and Commercial Matters, signed at Brussels in 1968.

Nevertheless, it was submitted that jurisdiction was one thing; justiciability or actionablility another. It was *not* enough for the plaintiff to establish that he could bring proceedings against the defendants in the English court.

Where the wrong of which he complained had been committed outside England, he had also to establish that the English court, applying its own conflict of laws rules, would regard his complaint as giving rise to a cause of action that it would recognise and entertain.

The judge accepted that, but for the Brussells Convention, an action in the English court which was founded on an alleged breach of Dutch copyright law had to be struck out as non-justiciable on one or both of two grounds:

First, because the rule in *British South Africa Company v The Companhia de Mocambique* ([1893] AC 602) required that a claim for breach of a foreign statutory intellectual property right must be regarded as local and so could not be entertained by an English court.

Second, because such a claim could not satisfy the double-actionability rule derived from *Phillips v Eyre* ((1870) LR 6 QB 1).

But he was satisfied that to apply those rules in a case where the English court was given jurisdiction by articles 2 and 6(1) of the Brussels Convention would be inconsistent with, and would impair the effectiveness of the Convention; with the consequence that the English conflict of laws rules had to be regarded as overridden by the Convention in such a case and so inapplicable.

Non-justiciability under the *Mocambique* rule

On its face, their Lordships found that the rule in the *Mocambique* case did not provide self-evident support for the proposition that a claim for breach of a foreign statutory intellectual property right could not be entertained by an English court.

The case was considered in *Hesperides Hotels v Aegean Turkish Holidays Ltd* ([1979] AC 508) and in *Tyburn Productions Ltd v Conan Doyle* ([1991] Ch 75).

The issue identified in *Tyburn* was whether or not the distinction between transitory and local actions was fundamental to the decision in the *Mocambique* case.

It was necessary to understand what the distinction between local and transitory actions was. From an analysis of the reasoning in the *Mocambique* case it was clear that the question whether the English courts should entertain an action for trespass to foreign land was treated as one of justiciability.

The English courts should not claim jurisdiction to adjudicate on matters which, under generally accepted principles of private international law, were within the peculiar province and competence of another state.

Their Lordships were satisfied that, at least in relation to land situated within a contracting state, there was now no longer any basis for the rule in the *Mocambique* case. The questions addressed in that case were now as a matter of English private international law, determined by section 2(1) of the 1982 Act giving effect to the accession of the UK to the Brussels Convention.

Extension of the Mocambique rule to intellectual property

Their Lordships considered of limited assistance the Australian cases of *Potter v Broken Hill Proprietary Co Ltd* ((1906) 3 CLR 479) and *Norbert Steinhardt and Son Ltd v Meth* ([1960-1] 105 CLR 440).

Of the English cases, their Lordships found that the respondents could gain no assistance from *Def Lepp Music v Stuart-Brown* ([1986] RPC 273).

Tyburn was the only decision that could be said to provide direct support for the proposition that a claim for breach, outside England, of a foreign intellectual property right could not be entertained by an English court. That case concerned the existence or validity of the right itself.

Their Lordships could derive little or no assistance on the question whether an action for alleged infringement of a foreign copyright by acts done outside the UK, in a case where, as here, the existence and validity of the rights was not in issue, was justiciable in an English court; and no assistance from that case where the question arose in the context of acts done in a contracting state.

Their Lordships also rejected the submission that by article 5(2) of the Berne Convention the provisions of the Brussels Convention were excluded from application to copyright infringement.

Requirement of double-actionability

The respondents relied on the rule derived from *Phillips v Eyre* and *Boys v Chaplin* ([1971] AC 356). For the rule and its exception see *Dicey and Morris on Conflict of Laws* (12th edition (1993) p1487).

Their Lordships found that the case was not one in which the claim was in respect of some wrong which was conceptually unknown in English law. It was a case where, if the claim was justiciable at all, the exception to the double actionability rule enabled an English court to apply Dutch law; and the English court ought to do so.

That view accorded with the policy subsequently adopted by Parliament when enacting section 11 of the Private International Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1995.

Conclusion

Their Lordships were satisfied that the Mocambique rule did not require the English court to refuse to entertain a claim in respect of the alleged infringement of Dutch copyright; and that, in those circumstances, the court was not required by the first limb of the double actionability rule to hold that the claim was bound to fail because the acts done in Holland could not amount to an infringement of UK copyright.

It followed that their Lordships were not persuaded that the judge's order should be affirmed on the alternative ground in the respondents' notice.

Solicitors: Landau & Cohen; Berrymans Lace Mawer; Ashurst Morris Crisp.

Rate of payment of performance royalties

Performing Rights Society v Boizot

Before Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Aldous and Lord Justice Sedley

[Judgment February 2]

A hotel or restaurant with a licence to perform music from the repertoire of the Performing Rights Society was required to pay royalties under that licence calculated at 4 per cent of the cost of the performers. The rate was calculated on annual gross expenditure in respect of the provision of any music by performers, not on the amount of copyright music played.

The Court of Appeal so held, dismissing the appeal of the defendant, Mr Peter Boizot, against the decision of Judge Cowell in West London County Court to dismiss his counterclaims against the plaintiff, the Performing Rights Society.

Mr Stephen Bate for Mr Boizot; Miss Mary Vitoria, QC and Mr Bernard Lalanne for the plaintiff.

LORD JUSTICE ALDOUS said that the society was a licensing body as defined by section 116 of the Copyright Designs and Patents Act 1988. It administered the performing rights in musical works on behalf of its members and represented many foreign music copyright owners.

In practice anybody who wished to perform a musical work in public required a licence from the society. Such licences were available to those who applied and provided income which in 1997 exceeded £190,000,000 which the society distributed to its members after deduction of expenses.

The society organised and made available to prospective users blanket licences which authorised the user to make use of the society's entire repertoire.

Mr Boizot was the founder, chairman and managing director of Pizza Express, which owned a number of establishments including the Pizza on the Park in Knightsbridge and the Great Northern Hotel in Peterborough.

The Pizza on the Park was a restaurant which provided customers with live musical entertainment featuring jazz musicians and cabaret artists. The Great Northern Hotel provided similar entertainment on a smaller scale.

During performances a number of musical works were performed for which *no* licence was needed. Also a significant portion of the time during which entertainment was provided was taken up by activities not involving use of the society's repertoire.

In 1977 the society granted a licence to Mr Boizot in respect of the Pizza on the Park. In 1984 another licence was granted in respect of the Great Northern Hotel.

The relevant tariff was HR, that applicable to hotels and restaurants. Those licences were continued from year to year but the royalty rates had been changed.

The society commenced two actions against Mr Boizot in 1997 for royalties alleged to be due to them in respect of the Pizza on the Park licence and the Great Northern Hotel licence. The judge dismissed the counterclaims and ordered Mr Boizot to pay royalties of about £25,600.

Mr Boizot appealed only against the dismissal of the counterclaims in which he sought two declarations as to the meaning of the society's licence subject to the HR tariff.

Mr Boizot contended that under the licence he needed to pay only 4 per cent of his expenditure in providing performance of works the subject of the society's repertoire and that when calculating the amount due, provision should be made for the time when music was not being performed and when the repertoire was not being used.

His Lordship could not accept Mr Boizot's submissions. The licence granted in clause 1 was to use the society's repertoire. The royalties were calculated in accordance with the HR tariff.

Section 4.1.1. of that tariff on royalty rates for featured music had to be read with the definitions in section 7. When so read it was quite unambiguous.

If an establishment used the society's repertoire it needed a licence which was a blanket licence covering the whole repertoire. The sum payable was calculated by reference to expenditure on performers, not by reference to the amount of use made of the society's repertoire.

It was paying for use of the repertoire with the rate calculated in a particular way. Whether or not the manner of calculation was reasonable was within the sole jurisdiction of the Copyright Tribunal.

Section 4 of the tariff set the royalty rate for music users in respect of musical performances. Section 4.1.1. did not refer to copyright music within the society's repertoire, but generally to "music by performers".

The word "music" was unqualified and therefore meant any music in contrast to music within the society's repertoire. It was clear in section 4.1.1 that the rate was calculated on gross expenditure not on the amount of copyright music used.

The Master of the Rolls and Lord Justice Sedley agreed.

Solicitors: Pothecary & Barratt, Bishop's Stortford; Maidstones.

Starting point for multiplier based on life expectancy

Worrall v Powergen plc

Before Mr David Foskett, QC

[Judgment November 17]

When determining a multiplier based on the life expectancy of a plaintiff in a personal injury action, the court should use as a starting-point tables 11 to 20 of the so-called "Ogden Tables" published by the Government Actuary's Department.

Mr David Foskett, QC, sitting as a deputy judge of the Queen's Bench Division in the Birmingham District Registry, so stated when ruling, inter alia, on an issue relating to damages to be paid by the defendant, Powergen plc, to the plaintiff, Frances Worrall, widow and executrix of the estate of Leslie Worrall, deceased, in respect of claims made under the Law Reform (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1934 and the Fatal Accidents Act 1976.

Mr Frank Burton, QC, for the plaintiff; Miss Jayne Adams for the defendant.

HIS LORDSHIP said that the defendant had admitted liability for the death at the age of 64 years and 5 months, of the plaintiff's husband. One issue relating to damages which could not be agreed between the parties was the appropriate multiplier for the plaintiff's dependency based upon the pensions that the deceased would have received had he lived.

Both parties agreed that the correct starting-point was with the *Actuarial Tables with Explanatory notes for use in Personal Injury and Fatal Accident Cases* issued from time to time by the Government Actuary's Department, and known as "Ogden Tables".

Use of those tables was endorsed by the House of Lords in *Wells v Wells* ([1998] 3 WLR 329, 347), where Lord Lloyd of Berwick stated that "... the tables should now be regarded as the starting-point, rather than a check".

The dispute was whether table 1 should be used, as the defendant contended, or table 11, as the plaintiff contended.

Both provided multipliers for pecuniary loss for life, for males, but were based on different mortality assumptions, described in paragraphs 5 to 7 of the explanatory notes to the Ogden Tables (third edition (1998)).

Tables 1 to 10 were based on actual mortality rates deduced from a three year period, whereas tables 11 to 20 were based on projected mortality rates, giving higher multipliers.

Despite reservations about tables 11 to 20 expressed by the Association of British Insurers (at Appendix C to the third edition), the working party responsible for the third edition concluded that tables 11 to 20 provided the more appropriate figures, and had recommended the courts to use those tables rather than tables 1 to 10.

The court should look for the most realistic basis to the assumptions made in relation to the likely mortality of the injured party had he not sustained his injury. Likely mortality could only be assessed by reference to the mortality rates of the population as a whole.

In his Lordship's judgment the correct starting-point for determining a multiplier based on life expectancy was tables 11 to 20 of the Ogden Tables.

Solicitors: Russell Jones & Walker, Birmingham; Dibb Lupton Alsop, Birmingham.

Effect of matrimonial award on insolvency deal

In re M (a debtor) (488-IO-of 1996)

Before Sir John Vinelott

[Judgment November 12]

A wife who had received a lump sum under an order in ancillary relief proceedings was bound to accept a dividend under an individual voluntary arrangement. However, in order to prevent unfair prejudice to the wife, her special position as a creditor within section 281(5) of the Insolvency Act 1986 had to be recognised.

Sir John Vinelott so held, sitting as an additional judge of the Chancery Division, when allowing an appeal by P against Mr Registrar Baister's refusal to allow an extension of time for making an application under section 262 of the 1986 Act. In making her application under section 262, P had sought relief from an individual voluntary arrangement entered into by the M, the respondent.

Section 281 provides: "(5) Discharge [from bankruptcy debts] does not ... release the bankrupt from any debt which ... (b) arises from any order made in family proceedings..."

Miss Ancharad Start for the appellant; Ms Marcia Shekerdemian for the respondent.

HIS LORDSHIP said that P and M were married in 1990. In about 1995, P commenced divorce proceedings and received an order by way of ancilliary relief that M should transfer his interest in the matrimonial home to appellant and pay her the sum of £20,000.

M subsequently applied for an interim order under sections 252 and 253 of the 1986 Act so that an individual voluntary arrangement could be considered by his creditors. P's claim was by then £24,962, the £20,000 plus the taxed costs incurred in the matrimonial proceedings. The proposal was approved by the requisite majority, with only P, who stood to recover less than 4 per cent of her claim, voting against.

On March 13, 1998, Mr Registrar Baister refused to allow P's application, inter alia, for an extension of time for making an application under section 262 of the 1986 Act. It was from that decision that P appealed.

His Lordship said that the first question he had to address was whether P was bound by the individual voluntary arrangement in respect of the lump sum payable in ancillary proceedings.

Citing *In re Bradley-Hole (a Bankrupt)* ([1995] 1 WLR 1097) with approval, his Lordship said that a wife entitled to a matrimonial debt was a creditor within section 257 and was entitled to a notice of a meeting to consider and capable of being bound by a voluntary arrangement.

On the question of whether P had been unfairly prejudiced by the individual voluntary arrangement for the purposes of section 262, his Lordship said that P had the right under section 281(5) of the 1986 Act, not enjoyed by other creditors, to assert her claim to a matrimonial debt, notwithstanding the release of debts following bankruptcy. To the extent that she was compelled by the terms of the voluntary arrangement to accept a dividend in satisfaction of the matrimonial debt, that right was overridden and so she was thereby unfairly prejudiced.

In his Lordship's judgment, the terms of an independent voluntary arrangement would unfairly prejudice a creditor such as P unless her special position was recognised or unless the other creditors were in agreement.

His Lordship considered whether P had an alternative remedy. P was impugning the bona fides of the arrangement; accordingly it was contended that she could present a bankruptcy petition under sections 264(1)(b) and 276(1)(b).

Notwithstanding the dictum of Mr Justice Chadwick in *Russell v Russell* (unreported July 16, 1996) his Lordship held that P had no financial interest in presenting a petition and it would have no prospect of success.

Accordingly, in so far as P relied on sections 264(1) and 276(1), the proper course for challenging the bona fides of the arrangement lay in rule 5.17(5) of the Insolvency Rules (SI 1986 No 1925).

Solicitors: Lawrence Tucketts, Bristol; L. Bingham & Co.

Sentencing as if for contempt

Regina v Lubega

Before Lord Justice Swinton Thomas, Mr Justice Tucker and Mr Justice Penry-Davey

[Judgment February 1]

Section 6(5) of the Bail Act 1976, under which an offence "shall be punishable either on summary conviction or as if it were a criminal contempt of court", did not have the effect of converting an offence under the Act to a contempt of court. It provided a speedy and effective alternative method of dealing with such an offence.

The Court of Appeal, Criminal Division, so stated when allowing an appeal by Thomas Lubega and quashing his conviction on January 20, 1999 at Wood Green Crown Court, before Judge Finney, of being in contempt of court, for which he was sentenced to 28 days imprisonment.

Mr Simon Wilshire, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for the appellant; Mr Marcus Thompson for the Crown.

MR JUSTICE TUCKER, giving the judgment of the court, said that on January 19 the appellant attended court on conditional bail, the condition being one of residence, for a trial concerning a single count of robbery.

On January 21 the jury were unable to reach a verdict and were discharged.

On the first occasion, on January 19, the appellant turned up late and the judge gave him a severe warning and said that if he was late the next day it would be regarded as an offence.

In spite of that the appellant was 20 minutes late the next day, by which time the judge had revoked his bail and indicated that it would be treated as a contempt of court.

When the appellant did appear his counsel's requests for further time to consider the position regarding the alleged contempt were refused. After further exchanges the appellant was sentenced.

It was apparent from sections 3(1) and 6 of the 1976 Act that if the appellant had committed any offence it was one contrary to section 6, and once the offence was established the method of punishment was established by section 6(5).

That subsection did not convert an offence under the Act to a contempt of court, but provided an alternative method of dealing with it. It followed that the judge was not entitled to deal with the matter as a contempt of court.

In the circumstances, their Lordships would not consider whether to substitute a conviction under section 6 of the Act, nor would they decide whether it would be possible to do so.

Solicitors: Crown Prosecution Service, Highgate.

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES 0171-782 7344

LEGAL NOTICES

NO. 07037 OF 1998
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
COMPANIES COURT
IN THE MATTER OF RED STRIPE MARKETING CO. LIMITED
AND IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Order of the High Court of Justice (Chancery Division) dated 27th January 1999 confirming the reduction of the capital of the above-named Company from £350,000.00 to £2.00 and the Minute approved by the Court showing with respect to the capital of the Company as altered the several particulars required by the above mentioned Act were registered by the Registrar of Companies on 29th day of January 1999

DATED this 1st day of February 1999

Sharman & Trethewy
1 Harpur Street
Bedford MK40 1PF
(Ref: ICC01225-396)
Solicitors for the above named Company

JUNEMANOR LIMITED T/AS THE EMPORIUM & Q BAR

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a Meeting of Creditors of the above-named Company will be held at 63 Lincoln's Inn Fields, London, WC2A 3JX on 23rd February 1999 at 12 Noon for the purposes mentioned in Sections 100 and 101 of the said Act.

Notice is also given, pursuant to Section 98(2)(A) of the Insolvency Act 1986, that Peter Gotham of Messrs. Begbies Traynor (Incorporating Taylor Gotham & Fry), The Old Exchange, 234 Southchurch Road, Southend-on-Sea, Essex SS1 2EG is qualified to act as an Insolvency Practitioner in relation to the above company, and will furnish creditors, free of charge, with such information concerning the company's affairs as they may reasonably require.

Resolutions to be taken at the aforementioned meeting may include a resolution specifying the terms on which the Liquidator is to be remunerated. The meeting may also receive information about or be called upon to approve the costs of preparing the Statement of Affairs and convening the meeting.

Dated the 2nd February 1999
[illegible]
Director

LARACO LIMITED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a Meeting of Creditors of the above-named Company will be held at Grosvenor Hotel, Grosvenor Road Jesmond NE2 2RR on 18th February 1999 at 1.30pm for the purposes mentioned in Sections 100 and 101 of the said Act.

Notice is also hereby given, pursuant to Section 98(2) of the Insolvency Act 1986, that Jamie Taylor of Messrs. Begbies Traynor (Incorporating Taylor Gotham & Fry), The Old Exchange, 234 Southchurch Road, Southend-on-Sea, Essex SS1 2EG is qualified to act as an Insolvency Practitioner in relation to the above company, and will furnish creditors, free of charge, with such information concerning the company's affairs as they may reasonably require.

Resolutions to be taken at the aforementioned meeting may include a resolution specifying the terms on which the Liquidator is to be remunerated. The meeting may also receive information about or be called upon to approve the costs of preparing the Statement of Affairs and convening the meeting.

Dated the 2nd February 1999
[illegible]
Director

Case No. 007422/98
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
COMPANIES COURT
IN THE MATTER OF HARTFORD GROUP PLC
AND IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Order of the High Court of Justice (Chancery Division) dated 27th January 1999 confirming the reduction of the capital of the Company from £6,250,000 to £4,175,625 and the Minute approved by the Court shown with respect to the capital of the Company as altered the several particulars required by the above mentioned Act were registered by the Registrar of Companies on 5th February 1999.

DATED 8th February 1999

Kuit Steinart Levy, 3 St Mary's Parsonage, Manchester M3 2RD
Solicitors for the above named company.

P J PLASTICS (EAST ANGLIA) LIMITED

Registered Number: 3372283 Trading names: AJJA, P J PLASTICS Nature of business: Manufacturer and wholesaler of polythene products and packaging Trade classification: 11 Date of appointment of Administrative receiver: 2 February 1999 Name of person appointing the administrative receiver: Barclays Bank plc - Debt Recovery Unit (East) Joint Administrative Receivers: Peter George Hyatt and Peter Richard Copp (Office holder nos. 8277 and 1788) of BDO Stoy Hayward, [illegible]

CHARITY COMMISSIONERS
CHARITY: THE DAVID PERLOFF CHARITABLE TRUST 288097
SCHEME: ALTERING OR AFFECTING
REFERENCE: FP/83136/CD(L4n)

The Commissioners propose to make a Scheme for this charity. A copy of the draft Scheme can be seen at Mishcon de Reya, [illegible] Southampton Row, London, WC1B 5HS, or can be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to The Charity Commission, St Albans House, 57 - 60 Haymarket, London, SW1Y 4QX quoting the above reference. Comments or representations can be made within one month from today.

CHY-1161D
CHARITY COMMISSION
CHARITY: THE SPECIAL TRUSTEES FOR THE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE HOSPITAL GENERAL CHARITY
REFERENCE: DCF79468NHS

The Charity Commission has made a Scheme to amend the trusts of this charity. A copy can be seen for the next month at 2nd floor, 1[illegible] Hampstead Road, London N[illegible] 2EX or can be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to NHS Charities Section, Charity Commission 2nd floor, 20 Kings Parade, Queens Dock, Liverpool L3 4DQ.

Please quote the above reference.



GALLERIES

Is this man the future of British art?

PAGE 32

THE TIMES ARTS

THEATRE

Copenhagen comes into the West End

PAGE 33



Scatting with the enemy

Jazz singers are boldly crossing over into pop territory. **Clive Davis** applauds

Last year the whole world — Michael Tilson Thomas, Cliff Richard and all — queued up to celebrate George Gershwin's centenary. And rightly so. In the jazz realm, on the other hand, every year is a Gershwin centenary. His melodies run through the core of the repertoire, forming a musical DNA in blue. Tonight, as on every other night, someone somewhere will be scatting a chorus of *Fascinating Rhythm* or turning the lights down low with *The Man I Love*.

Without the artistry of jazz singers, many of the tunes we now think of as classics might have survived only as period-pieces. Countless listeners have been won over to the work of Kern, Porter and Berlin not by extravagant Broadway revivals but by Ella Fitzgerald's timeless series of *Songbook* albums.

Even though Fitzgerald, Sarah Vaughan and Carmen McRae have passed on, the Nineties are a good time in which to hear standards in many guises. Once neglected artists such as the ultra-laid-back American, Shirley Horn, have enjoyed a professional rebirth. The Canadian newcomer Diana Krall has justifiably won acclaim for her Nat Cole-inspired trio. New York cabaret diva Mary Cleere Haran regularly attracts full houses here with her sophisticated and waspish shows. And next month (March 11) another American, Michael Feinstein, brings his own winning blend of archivist's enthusiasm and pianistic skill to the Barbican.

But if the past is in safe hands, the music of the present occupies a more ambiguous position. You can hardly put all the blame on the jazz singers. Given the choice between *Someone To Watch Over Me* or an anthem from *Whistle Down The Wind*, it is fair to assume that they will choose the oldie every time.

The changing face of the pop industry has played its part too. With the rise of the singer-songwriter the nature of popular song has changed dramatically. Instead of the elegantly structured 32-bar products of Tin Pan Alley, tunes have grown more personal and more direct. The rhythmic and verbal subtleties on which jazz singers thrive are often conspicuously absent.

But not always. The distinctive albums that Claire Martin has released have furnished a rich example of what a discerning vocalist can achieve with the addition of contemporary material. Whether covering Tom Waits's *Old Boyfriends* or Laura Nyro's *Buy and Sell*, the London-born vocalist has shown how much can be gained by looking beyond the tried and tested.



Claire Martin: "Modern songs speak to me more directly than standards. I want my records slipped in with k.d. lang's, not lost behind Carmen McRae's"

Martin has not deserted the jazz camp entirely. You still hear her at concerts with the BBC Big Band. But her new album *Take My Heart* (released on Monday by Linn) finds her moving even further into "enemy territory". Her producer Paul Stacey has sculpted a glossier pop backdrop. A sideman with Oasis, he has even persuaded Noel Gallagher to bring his acoustic guitar along for the gentle, countrified version of the Beatles' *Help!*.

Martin realises she may annoy jazz traditionalists, but she sees nothing wrong in seeking inspiration beyond the authorised canon. "It's a myth that the new songs aren't out there," she says. "You've only got to hear people like Phoebe Snow, Elvis Costello and Joni Mitchell to know that good stuff is still being written.

"I love standards, but modern songs speak to me more directly. Language has changed. So have relationships. A songwriter today is bound to be different from Rodgers and Hammerstein. If you say you're happy and gay now it has a different meaning." Ironically, she points to Krall's success as a prime reason for the contemporary mood of *Take My Heart*. "She's lovely, but it made me realise I didn't want to go down that road. I want my records to be slipped in with k.d. lang instead of being lost behind Carmen McRae's."

This spring Martin will be on the road singing Burt Bacharach with Ian Shaw, another R&B-influenced jazz singer who enjoys wandering off the beaten path. Shaw, who has been winning over those Americans who think all Brits sound like Julie Andrews, has a new album of his own out shortly. The lyrics of the title tune, *In A New York Minute*, come from the pen of the expatriate writer Fran Landesman. Other less than conventional tracks include soul singer Bill Withers's *Grandma's Hands*.

Shaw cites Shaun Colvin and the late Jeff Buckley as two outstanding members of the new wave of songwriters. And although he feels that new tunes "have to breathe for a year or so" before he is ready to tackle them, he has his eye on a song from the last Portishead disc. As the producer Bob Belden wrote in *Downbeat* magazine during a discussion of musicians' crossover tastes: "Jazz musicians have adapted pop material since they thought they could get away with it — except now."

There is always the danger that if artists chase a bigger audience they will end up compromising their values and creating glib fillers that satisfy neither camp. And pessimists would argue that jazz and pop have grown so far apart over the last 30 years that no common ground exists any more. Like anyone else, Ella Fitzgerald made some sub-standard albums, but you cannot imagine that she would ever have got round to adding *Like A Virgin* to her programme.

But there could well be many potential jazz fans waiting to be won over by a singer who connects with their own tastes. Cassandra Wilson, for one, has achieved success with folk-tinged recordings that weave together sources as diverse as U2, Joni Mitchell and bluesman Robert Johnson.

Instrumentalists continue to seek the unexpected, too. Pianist Brad Mehldau won praise for his album *Songs* by mixing evergreens with *Riverman* by cult singer-songwriter Nick Drake. The same number opens Claire Martin's album. Brave minds think alike.

GREAT BRITISH HOPES

Rising stars in the arts firmament

SARAH SMART



Age: 21.

Profession: Actress.

Criminal record: She made a strong impression on TV critics in January's *Trial By Jury*, the BBC2 drama in which real-life barristers and jurors try fictional cases, with actors as the defendants and witnesses.

A tough job? Playing a teenager giving evidence against the "wide-boy" father accused of murdering her mother was "the most nerve-racking" day of her life. "I didn't know what the QCs were going to ask me, so when I was in the witness box I was improvising. But I knew that everything I said would be broadcast."

Junior veteran: For roles like this, and Clara, the hero's mother, in a forthcoming small-screen adaptation of *David Copperfield*, she draws on a stock of experience obtained in children's television. "I started off at Central's Junior Television Workshop, in Birmingham, when I was ten. Colin Edwards, the leader of the group, was a major influence."

School daze: Much of her education took place during filming. "Whenever I wasn't needed on location I had to go back to a camper van and work with a tutor."

Sister act: She is moving from Birmingham to London to share a flat with her two sisters, Donna, 20, and Suzie, 18, who are also actresses. "Donna and I played Brummie twins in a BBC Christmas drama ten years ago. It'd be great to get the three of us in the same show."

Weirdest moments? In the early Nineties she was one of the leads in *Woof*, a Bafta-nominated children's series about a boy who periodically turns into a dog. "Adults enjoyed the show and several stopped me in the street and asked: 'Does that boy *really* turn into a dog?' "

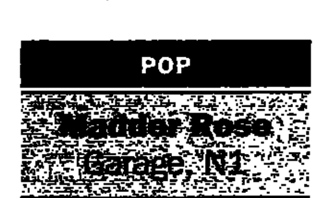
Targets? "More period stuff, because I love the style of acting, and more high-profile series like *Bliss* [in which she played the daughter of genetic scientist Simon Shepherd]. I'd love a really ballsy part."

Self-criticism: "When I look at a finished programme for the first time I find myself repeating all my facial expressions. If anyone watched me watching myself they'd think I was crazy."

DANIEL ROSENTHAL

Axes bold as love

POP



If, as some forecasters say, rock's tide is turning back towards American guitar bands, it will be a belated bonus for Madder Rose. The New York group has endured a switchback career since forming in 1991, with a spell in the next-big-thing enclosure followed by a fallow period.

Fears of their demise have been allayed through the good offices of the independent London label Cooking Vinyl, which two weeks ago released *Tragic Magic*, Madder Rose's splendid 1997 album. Previously only granted release in America and Japan, it now contains two new songs as an appetiser for their next main-course release.

But the crowd that filled the Garage clearly had fond memories of the band's formative years. *Car Song* was an early reminder of the fetching juxtaposition of Billy Cote's distinctive guitar shapes and Mary Lorson's crystalline vocals. Indeed, for much of the set the armoured tank of Cote's axe effects was a deceptive cover for the baby driver sitting inside gently steering the melodies.

In their quieter moments, they exuded some of the delicate intensity of the Cowboy Junkies, Lorson's breezy tones making her a less mercurial version of the Junkies' Margo Timmins. *Jailbird*, one of the new tracks on *Tragic Magic*, boasted a killer guitar motif from Cote that wafted through the piece like a twang from the Old West. On the other, *Narco*, live limitations prevented them from fully recreating the dreamy harmonies of the recorded version, but it still sounded like a group taking ever bolder steps away from base camp.

There is no whiff of trumped-up theatricality about Madder Rose, and they closed the set proper with the decidedly downbeat, even lugubrious *Don Greene*. For the encore, it was a shame that they were hamstrung by something as mundane as a broken string, and all momentum was lost as Lorson made a drawn-out but unsuccessful attempt at retuning. In the end, she cast the offending instrument aside for a hands-free version of their early single *Beautiful John*, and sounded just fine anyway.

PAUL SEXTON

Dot commerce

Judie Tzuke
Queen Elizabeth Hall

WHILE the Internet is often talked up as a way for new acts to bypass traditional record company channels of distribution, it is also proving an invaluable marketing tool for older acts that have become marginalised by the mainstream media.

Judie Tzuke, who has had unsatisfactory experiences with six labels since her first hit 20 years ago, has found her needs best catered for by setting up her own Big Moon record company and selling her last three albums exclusively via her website (www.tzuke.com) and by mail order.

The strategy seems to be working. The singer was enthusiastically greeted by 1,000 or so devotees at the Queen Elizabeth Hall.

Rather like an English version of Stevie Nicks, Tzuke's commanding stage presence was both open-hearted and carefully self-contained. At 42 the long, honey-blonde curls remain untamed and the voice has lost none of its cool, plaintive appeal.

The somewhat restrained tone of the first set was established with a string of songs in a classic soft-rock mould. *Tonight*, *Fuel Injection* and *Both Alone*, all from her current album, *Secret Agent*, offered a familiar mix of romantically windswept melodies firmly but discreetly shored up by Tzuke's four-piece backing band.

After the interval the musicians were let off the leash, and the guitarist David P. Goodes forged some spectacularly forceful solos during *Let Me Be the Pearl* and *Bring the Rain*, while various guest backing singers, including Tzuke's 11-year-old daughter Bailey, contributed to a dauntingly intense encore of *Bully*.

Tzuke, meanwhile, sang with her customary poise and grace, her voice an instrument of icy allure, whether negotiating the siren-charm melody of *Stay With Me Till Dawn*, the stark, Gothic harmonies of *Mother* or the more lighthearted mood of *One Day I Will Live in France*.

DAVID SINCLAIR

Films that are all about Steve

VISUAL ART: Like his namesake, the artist Steve McQueen risks life and limb for his latest films, now at the ICA. **Richard Cork** reports

Steve McQueen is building a 70ft brick wall when I meet him at the ICA, where his keenly awaited one-man show has just opened. Spanning the entire length of the narrow Concourse Gallery, always an awkward place to display art, the wall transforms the space with its forbidding bulk. McQueen mounts a ladder and begins placing pieces of smashed glass in fresh cement along the top.

"I'm hoping that the wall will be scribbled on," he says with a subversive smile. "If it's not covered in graffiti by the end of the show, I'll be disappointed." Visitors to McQueen's show can also spin themselves into queasiness on his sculptural chrome funfair roundabout. But McQueen's lightheartedness does not entirely mask the tension he feels, staging his first major British exhibition of films, sculpture and photography. Shown extensively abroad since his debut in a mixed ICA survey in 1995, the ebullient 29-year-old is already widely regarded as an outstanding young artist. So far, however, McQueen has enjoyed greater acclaim abroad than in his native London. "I get a better response in the US," he admits, "maybe because black artists are more noticeable over there and gain a broader acceptance."

Talking about his student years, McQueen soon makes clear that it was a difficult period. At Chelsea School of Art, he painted and "did a lot of drawing, but they didn't have any equipment for film". Even at pace-setting Goldsmiths College, where he went on to study in the early 1990s, he had to "beg, steal and borrow from the film department. Goldsmiths was a tricky time: you had to find your own way. It was only when I saw a contemporary show at the Whitney, during a visit to New York in 1993, that the wide variety of possibilities in art really blew me away, like an explosion with fragments flying off in different directions."

Already, McQueen was fascinated by the potential of film as an artist's medium. "I was a zombie for foreign films," he says, remembering in particular the impact of a John Cassavetes season in 1992. "I loved the intimacy of his films, their changing moods, and the feeling that you never knew what was coming next." This fluidity and unpredictable excitement characterised the two films he showed at the ICA's *Mirage: Enigma of Race, Difference and Desire* in 1995. Both were silent and black and white, like so many of the early movies he admires. They stood out with impressive conviction in this large international exhibition.

"I didn't want to do *Mirage* at first," he confesses. "It was an all-black show, but that's never been an issue for me and I said no. But I didn't have a dealer, and nobody else was interested in my work. So I had to go back to the ICA."

One of his films, *Bear*, was subsequently bought by the Tate Gallery. At once threatening and playful, this Bacon-like confrontation between two naked black men has a dramatic, improvised flow that still typifies some of McQueen's recent work. The principal film in his new show is just as enigmatic, even though McQueen has now moved on to colour, a triple screen and — for the first time — sound. Called *Drumroll*, it records the giddy journey of an oil barrel pushed by a pink-coated McQueen through the streets of New York. Different viewpoints from the drum are projected alongside each other, with dizzying glimpses of pedestrians, traffic, skyscrapers and the artist himself. The soundtrack adds to the onslaught, with its cacophanous fragments of drum rattle, car din, startled comments from passers-by and McQueen's reiterated "Excuse me, please" as he hurtles along. "It's posh Manhattan," he says, "a very interesting piece of real estate, so damn expensive. But the film is more to do with economy of movement, the wheel, oil, and taking the city — anyone can do it."

McQueen first went to New York when he was six years old. "Most of my family live in the US, either in Brooklyn or Miami, and I've considered moving to New York myself. But I didn't think I'd survive there: for artists, it's like an elephants' graveyard." McQueen's other new film at the ICA, *Deadpan*, pays a highly dramatic homage to a celebrated slapstick moment from Buster Keaton's movie *Steamboat Bill Jr.* Commissioned by the Museum of Modern Art in New York, where McQueen held a solo exhibition in 1997, it centres on the collapse of a newly built house. McQueen stands beside it, and looks as if he will be fatally injured. Instead, an open window in the façade descends directly on him, leaving the artist uncannily upright and untouched. We see the miraculous event several times over, from various vantages and at different speeds.

McQueen, the very image of the defiant survivor, remains extraordinarily still and impassive throughout, even though he must have dreaded filming such a potentially lethal sequence. "*Deadpan* is all about that wait, about passing through the body," he says, before pointing out: "I'm framed by the window frame and by the institution where my work is shown."

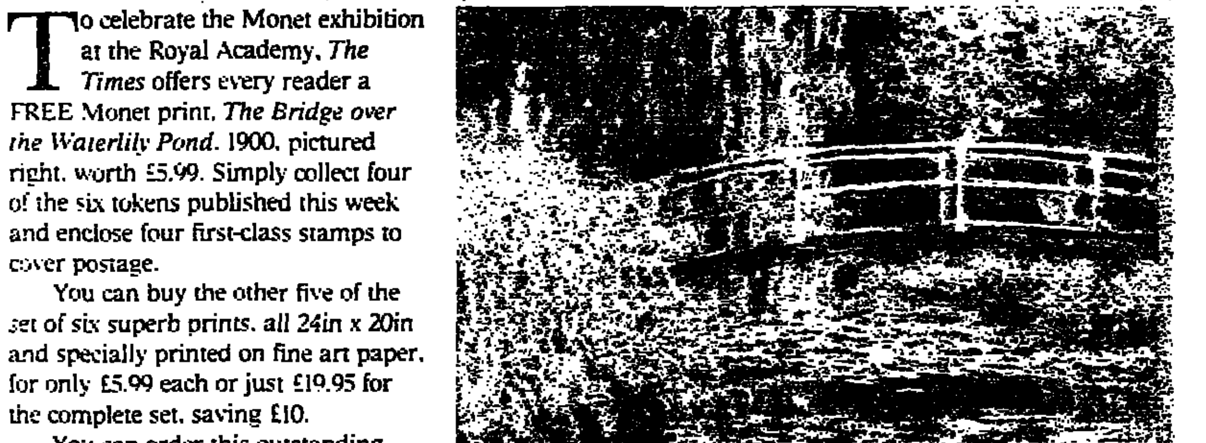
A restless individual, McQueen likes to move on. Two years ago, he decamped with his Dutch partner to Amsterdam. Their child was born there recently, and he cannot imagine ever returning to London. "I don't like it here any more," he explains. "I was getting into a routine, and I love the idea that nobody knows me in Amsterdam. The living conditions are great, especially for kids."

Compared with London, doesn't he find Amsterdam quiet? "Don't forget that I grew up in Ealing," he says with a wry grin. "Anyway, it's not important to me to live in an artists' milieu. I've never liked groups — they remind me too much of joining the Boy Scouts. Even though I'm a Catholic, and definitely an English guy, I'm open and changing, not stuck in a particular identity."

The key, for McQueen, lies in his art. "It enables you to work things out in public, creating your own world. Otherwise you're powerless: it would be terrible."

● *Steve McQueen at the ICA (0171-930 0493) until March 21*

"Even though I'm a Catholic, and definitely an English guy, I'm open and changing, not stuck in a particular identity" — Steve McQueen reflects on his success at his ICA exhibition



The Bridge over the Waterlily Pond, 1900 (24in x 20in)

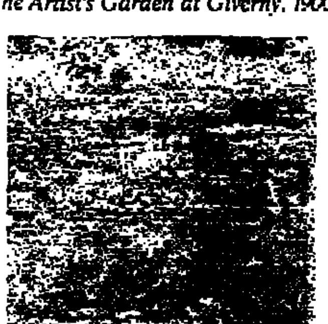


The Grand Canal, Venice, 1908

The Artist's Garden at Giverny, 1900

The Houses of Parliament, Sunset, 1904





Pond with Waterlilies, 1904



Waterlilies with Weeping Willow, 1903

Handel without care

CONCERTS

L'allegro
Queen Elizabeth Hall

George Frideric Handel was lucky with the texts he set in his adopted language: you can't go far wrong with the Authorised Version, Milton and Congreve. His settings of *L'allegro* and *Il penseroso* are surely among the greatest music inspired by the English language. When the composer's genius matches Milton's you are somewhere close to heaven, or so it seemed in a packed, spellbound QEH at last Thursday's performance by the King's Consort.

There is a degree of pudding-ly proof. When, at Handel's suggestion, Charles Jennens supplied words for the short, synthesizing third part, *Il moderato*, the level of poetic inspiration falls to earth with a thud and so, momentarily, does the music, suggesting that Moderation is indeed the English Vice rather than various other interesting candidates for that dubious honour.

But then Handel hits you with the sublime final duet, *As steals the morn upon the night* (significantly, Jennens took the image from Shakespeare), and all is forgiven. Maybe the manuscript was on the desk when Gluck paid his famous visit to Brook Street — Orpheus's *Che puro ciel* is the worthiest of homages.

Not that everything was perfect at last week's concert. Robert King could have done with an infusion of *moderato*: his tempos veered between the sort of glutinous adagios surely unknown in Handel's day and some allegros that, while blessedly lively, were a bit of a scramble. But the slow speeds led the singers into the sort of pious delivery redolent more of the cathedral than the concert hall — or, indeed, the theatre where, as Mark Morris's magnificent danced version so powerfully argued, *L'allegro* belongs.

Even more harmful was the standard of diction. From the very opening *Hence, loathed Melancholy, of Cerberus and blackest Midnight born*, Milton's syntax is gloriously pungent, but you would scarcely have known it from the generally mealy-mouthed, polite delivery. And if the words go, so does the meaning.

What the operatic world needs is an equivalent of the National Theatre's legendary Patsy Rodenburg, someone to prod soloists into, first, asking themselves precisely *why* they are singing the words in their charge, then into whamming them out.

Admittedly, someone may have said something in the interval: in the second part Susan Gritton started to hit the consonants and found a verbal eloquence to match the succulent beauty of her musical phrasing, and it was here that Claron McFadden came into her own with sprightly coloratura and a beguiling trill.

Neal Davies (bass) was the most consistently communicative soloist; Lorna Anderson and Paul Agnew too seldom escaped the straitjacket of church-choir politesse. Excellent solos from Rachel Brown (flute) and Andrew Clark (horn); decent (no more) playing from the King's Consort. But a work of blazing genius.

RODNEY MILNES

Thorns on the lark

Songbook '98
Wigmore Hall

There were songs about spacemen. There were songs about birds. And Rasputin. And Prince Edward. And lost loves, rivers, and mobile phones. There was more and more, three hours of more: Sarah Walker singing directly on to the strings of the Steinway's innards; Melanie Marshall, the voice dark and smoky, dressed to kill in a Byzantine mosaic; plus cabaret fooling from Kit and the Widow. This was Songbook '98, an idiosyncratic sample of last year's crop of lyric English utterances, devised, presented and mostly accompanied by Richard Sisson, the widowed half of the comedy team.

Was it fun? Not really, although you can appreciate the thrill young composers must feel at hearing their works so forthrightly delivered. Walker took charge of the fledgelings with Christopher Gould at the piano. She floated on air over the delicate fragments of Mikala Leigh Bromley's *Eight Scenes from Moonlighting Wood*, eerily conjured Sophie Viney's *Music of the Spheres* from the piano strings and made the best of some ungrateful writing in Alastair Stout's *Behold! A New World* and Quentin Thomas's jocular *Three Interludes For Contemplative Spacemen*.

Among such company, Hugh Wood stood out as the one senior citizen. It was good to hear this most thoughtful of composers setting D. H. Lawrence in *River Roses*, tenderly flowing in Daniel Norman's light tenor. But the clash between serious art songs and Sisson's incessantly chirpy introductions grew steadily more irksome.

Following the interval, 30 members of the Berkshire Youth Choir, BBC Sainsbury's *Choir of the Year 1996*, filed on to the stage with their director Gillian Dibden. Sisson's eight *Bird Songs*, madly eclectic, beguiled the ear rather more than the two Sisson compositions already heard. Then, after two melting songs by Clement Ishmael, it was showtime, whether you wanted it or not. Leigh McDonald popped in from *Killing Rasputin* to sing and squawk through a sub-Sondheim ditty. The National Youth Music Theatre's show *The Kissing-Dance* was also heard from. But the only theatre song with real strength was Richard Taylor's *What We Have*, from his musical version of *The Go-Between*.

Then the cabaret clowns took over: not perhaps the best way to end an evening already strong on self-indulgence and weak on memorable music.

GEOFF BROWN

■ THEATRE

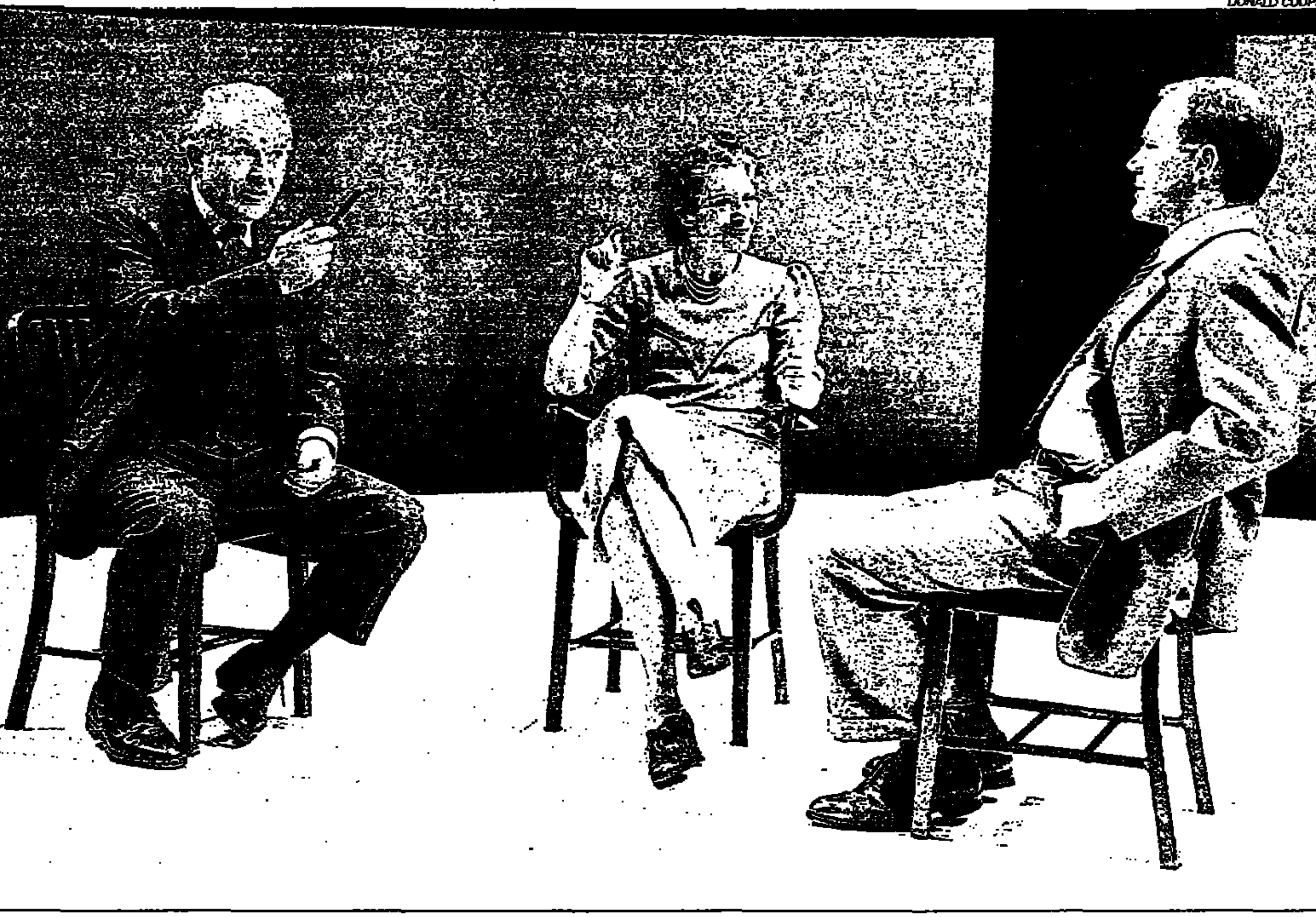
Frayn's fine fantasy

ARTS

■ LISTINGS

Drums from Africa

This nuclear fuse still fizzes


DONALD COOPER

Settling uncertainties: David Burke (Neils Bohr), Sara Kestelman (Margrethe Bohr) and Matthew Marsh (Werner Heisenberger) in *Copenhagen*

THEATRE

Copenhagen
Duchess

Anyone seeing Michael Frayn's superb play for the second time will know with what care and artistic cunning he structures it to carry his three characters forward to the electrifying scene that begins with Niels Bohr's tentative: "Unless..." Yet knowing the nature of the shore on which the waves of dialogue will finally break only increases the tension of watching Bohr, his wife Margrethe and his former pupil Werner Heisenberg approach, retreat and at last unite at this frightening place.

Copenhagen has already won a couple of "Best Play of the Year" awards, and though its argument is to do with whether Hitler's Germany might have been able to build an atom bomb in time to win the Second World War, the import of the argument extends far beyond the mid-20th century. Because all around the central issues of nuclear fission and Nazi conquest are the timeless anxieties of scientists' responsibility for the consequences of what they discover.

When the play opened last summer at the Cottesloe, Peter J. Davison's circular set was backed by curving rows of seats where the audience looked like students at an academic demonstration or members of a jury. Or both. The dimensions of the Duchess Theatre allow that same intimacy to be reproduced, and though our eyes take in the presence of these other onlookers they never distract us.

There is no need to have studied nuclear physics beforehand, because one of the measures of Frayn's skill is how attractively he interweaves the science, the politics and the impulses of individual lives. Indeed, one of the points the play emphasises is how these matters did interweave in the lives of Bohr and Heisenberg.

Heisenberg's scientific fame rests upon his Uncertainty Principle: you can determine the position of an atomic particle or its speed, but not both at the same time. Radiating from this in Frayn's play are the other uncertainties, chief of which is the visit paid by Heisenberg (a German) to the half-Jewish Bohr in Nazi-occupied Denmark in 1941. Did he want to find out if the Americans were working on a bomb? Did he want to be told not to work on one, or to learn that his chances of success were hopeless? Or something else (Frayn's own, exquisite suggestion)?

And infusing these matters of high moment are the powerful emotional currents between the three principals. The father-son relationship between Bohr and his troubled ex-pupil; the defensive attention of Bohr's wife as the unwelcome guest stumbles from one foolish courtesy to the next, all three existing in a sort of limbo where, since they are dead, they can at last endeavour to clarify the uncertainties of that fateful meeting.

Michael Blakemore's intelligent production (of a script with not one single stage direction) guides the three actors into bringing their characters to thrilling life: David Burke's gentlemanly Bohr, Sara Kestelman's shrewd Margrethe, Matthew Marsh's twisting, shifting and finally certain Heisenberg. Masterly performances in a masterwork.

JEREMY KINGSTON

A hard Irish joke

Paddy Irishman, Paddy Englishman and Paddy...?
Birmingham

Birmingham Rep's laudable commitment to new writing has paid off with Declan Croghan's striking new play at its Door studio space about Irishmen in London. Set in deepest Kilburn — the designer Patrick Conellan has created a grotty hovel of a bedsit — the action starts with two of the Paddys nursing hangovers, cooking gigantic fry-ups and performing perfunctory ablutions with washing-up liquid.

Anto (Tom Farrelly) is wide-eyed, impressionable, a bit of a milksop; Kevin (Michael Colgan) jaunty and a touch irritating. Much mileage is extracted from their endearing hopelessness, and the first half is sprinkled with one-liners.

Which makes you think that the title sounds like the beginning of a good joke, and leaves you expecting the punchline. But when it comes in the second half, it's a more hard-hitting affair. Trying to impress Una, the girl upstairs (a scarily intense Annie Farr), with his bar-stool republicanism, Anto has unwittingly given shelter to a renegade terrorist. Worse still, the girl is in on it: she's been playing him for a patsy. The two friends react in converse ways. Anto, seduced by the idea of heroism as well as by Una, toys with joining the cause. Kevin wants nothing to do with it and clears off to work in Kenya.

A Paddy, suggests Croghan, is a deracinated Irishman, forced by his distance from home to confront who he is and what he believes in. The play insists that cowardice is only cowardice if what you are being asked to risk your neck for is valid. What about his aspirations to make a good life, says Kevin. "My freedom is subordinate to your fight for my freedom!" he snaps.

The young cast are all highly watchable, if a touch haphazard. The direction is resourceful, though the timing could be finessed. The blend of broad comedy and political drama is at times uneasy, the psychology doesn't always ring true, the dialogue is occasionally laboured. But this is a provocative and entertaining production.

NIGEL CLIFF

Boxing clever

Shadowboxing
Tristan Bates, WC2

In his first play, Simon Macallum explores all the passion he ever felt for his old sport of boxing. Macallum himself and Paul Samson play two friends, both failed boxers, fighting, drinking and womanising in a small town in Scotland from the Eighties to now.

On a bare stage the two men square up to each other, moving together like mirror images. At first, they banter like a comic double act at the doors of the nightclub where they are the bouncers. While one tries to tell a joke, the other applies door policy indiscriminately: Samson's melancholic face melts into expressions of hopeful lust as he unctuously lets the pretty girls in and keeps out the male competition. The dialogue is dominated by Samson in the first half as he dissects the trappings of power bestowed on a bouncer by his suit, and ponders the passage of love from infatuation to boredom. But behind the lust and the drink, the boredom and the hunger for violence, is a desire to understand the psychology of aggression.

As they answer each other's rhetorical questions, it often seems that they are really two sides of the same coin. Despite the violence and grimness of their lives, each comes alive when reliving their finest fights, but they are always dragged down by their failure to win the big one. These men are interchangeable, and this surreal ambiguity is one of the impressive achievements of Macallum's powerful play.

The gritty language moves seamlessly from laddish banter to lyrical and melancholy meditations. The jagged Scottish idiom sometimes made it difficult to hear every word but the excellent pace and timing of the actors overrode this concern. Samson and Macallum are so perfectly in tune with one another that the feeling that they are two sides of one person is almost palpable.

The middle section of this one-hour play gets a bit tedious, as the umpteenth replay of a fight rolls on: only boxing aficionados will really thrill to the action as deeply as the characters. But Macallum is a writer and performer to watch, and his rollercoaster dialogue is hugely compelling.

EMILY ORMOND

RECOMMENDED TODAY

Guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Marit Hargie

LONDON

BIRMINGHAM ROYAL BALLET: A succulent triple bill featuring the London premiere of David Bintley's *The Protecting Veil* sandwiched between Ninette de Valois's *The Prospect Before Us* and Twyla Tharp's *In The Upper Room*, makes up the company's second programme during its visit here.
Sadler's Wells (0171-713 6000). *Opens tonight, 7.30pm* ♿

THE DRUMMERS OF BURUNDI: The African master drummers, currently on their first UK tour for ten years, arrive here for one night only with their fast and furious display of traditional dance and percussive skills.
Festival Hall (0171-960 4242). Tonight, 7.30pm. ♿

SARA: Patrick Miles's treatment of Chekhov's play *Ivanov*, focusing on the struggles of the hero's Jewish wife.
Bridewell (0171-936 3456). Opens tonight, 7.30pm.

TALK OF THE CITY: Stephen Poliakoff's flawed yet fascinating play about BBC censorship in the 1930s. With David Westhead and a charismatic Angus Wright.
Young Vic (0171-928 6363). Opens tonight, 7pm. ♿

ELSEWHERE

LIVERPOOL: The Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra and Choir join forces in Fauré's *Requiem* and *Pavane* in a concert with a French flavour. Harry Christophers conducts.
Philharmonic Hall (0151-709 3789) Tonight, 7.30pm.



David Threlfall plays *Peer Gynt* in Manchester

MANCHESTER: Braham Murray directs David Threlfall in the title role of Peer Gynt in an ambitious combination of drama, dance and music to create Ibsen's poetic play anew.
Royal Exchange (0161-833 9833). Previews from tonight, 7.30pm. ♿

WARWICK: Beethoven and Copland share the bill in this concert by the **City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra** with Mendelssohn's tuneful Violin Concerto. Viviane Hagner is the soloist. Alan Gilbert conducts.
Warwick Arts Centre (01203 524524). Tonight, 8pm. ♿

NEW WEST END SHOWS

Jeremy Kingston's choice of theatre showing in London

■ House full, returns only ◪ Some seats available □ Seats at all prices

◪ **COPENHAGEN**: Heisenberg mysteriously calls on Niels Bohr in wartime Denmark. Michael Frayn's enjoyably intelligent play transfers to the West End. Michael Blakemore directs. See review, left.
Duchess (0171-494 5075).

□ **AND THE BROTHER TOO**. Eamon Morrissey returns to the inimitable comic writings of Flann O'Brien, revealing more about "Yer Man" and his curious world view.
Tricycle (0171-328 1000).

□ **THE RAPE OF LUCRECE**: Thrilling staging of Shakespeare's poem by Theresa Shiban's Angelus Arts. A company of seven plus sensationally exotic music.
Union Theatre, SE1 (0171-261 9876).

◪ **THE FOREST**: Alan Ayckbourn adapts Ostrovsky's sardonic 1870 comedy, with Michael Feast's impoverished actor trying to impress his rich aunt (Frances de la Tour).
Lyttelton (0171-452 3000). ♿

◪ **OKLAHOMA!**: National Theatre cast includes Maureen Lipman in transfer of Trevor Nunn's Rodgers and Hammerstein.
Lyceum (0171-416 6099)

◪ **RICHARD III**: Robert Lindsay puts on the hump for Elijah Moshinsky's RSC transfer from Stratford.
Savoy (0171-836 8888). ♿

■ **THE STREET OF CROCODILES**: Welcome return for Theatre de Complicite's inventive staging of Bruno Schulz's magical recollections of pre-Nazi Poland
Queens (0171-494 5041).

□ **VASSA**: Sheila Hancock heads a terrific cast, playing the family matriarch in Gorky's strong drama. Howard Davies directs a new version for the Almeida season.
Albery (0171-369 1730)

FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE

James Christopher's choice of the latest movies

NEW RELEASES

HIDEOUS KINKY (15): Kate Winslet plays a naive young mother who takes her two young daughters on the the hippie trail to Morocco in the early 1970s. Beautifully shot film by Gillies MacKinnon. With Said Taghmaoui, Bella Riza, and Carrie Mullan.

LIVING OUT LOUD (15): Fitful romance with Holly Hunter and Danny Devito as an odd couple who meet in the elevator. Cracking performances fail to unlock the stalemate. Director, Richard LaGravenese.

HOW STELLA GOT HER GROOVE BACK (15): Successful career woman Angela Bassett falls for a Jamaican toy boy (Taye Diggs), half her age. Overlong, indulgent holiday brochure from director Kevin Rodney Sullivan.

A BUGS LIFE (U): A colony of cute, hard-working ants are terrorised by a delinquent gang of grasshoppers. Dazzling, bug-eyed perspectives from Disney and Pixar. John (Toy Story) Lasseter directs.

PECKER (15): John Waters's frothy satire on the art world lacks his usual bite but there are enough bad-taste moments to keep the humour bubbling. With Edward Furlong and Christina Ricci.

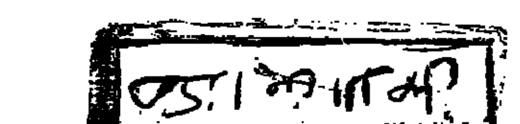
CURRENT

SHAKESPEARE IN LOVE (15): Thrilling romantic comedy with a cracking script by Marc Norman and Tom Stoppard. Gwyneth Paltrow excels as the Bard's cross-dressing muse. John Madden directs.

STEPMOM (12): Squelchy divorce movie with Julia Roberts as the hapless new woman in Ed Harris's life, and Susan Sarandon as the terminally ill ex. High Kleenex rating.

VERY BAD THINGS (18): Peter Berg's macabre comedy thriller satirises buddy movies and suburban lifestyles by chopping up half the cast. Demonic performances from Christian Slater and Cameron Diaz.

BULWORTH (18). Warren Beatty's disillusioned senator discovers a taste for telling ugly home truths. A shameless ego trip for Beatty, but a wonderful new comic spin on political manipulation and mendacity.



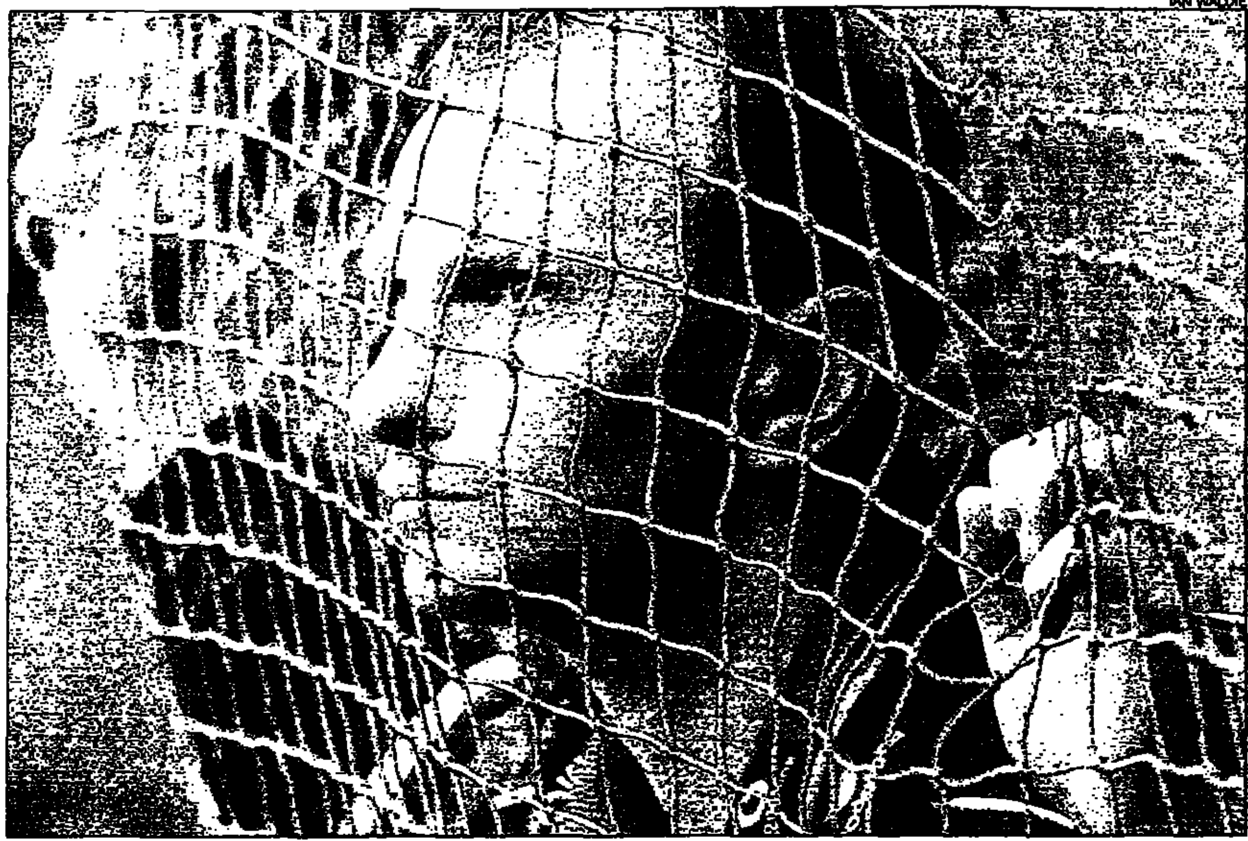
هكذا من الأصل

CRICKET: DIVERGENCE OF TWO FORMS OF GAME EMPHASISED BY LEFT-HANDER'S IMPORTANCE TO ENGLAND

Fairbrother makes the world of difference

FROM MICHAEL HENDERSON IN SYDNEY

IAN WALDIE



Fairbrother stares through the netting at England's practice session in Sydney yesterday, forced inside because of rain

THE Australia party to tour the West Indies, announced earlier this week, and England's team for the finals of the triangular tournament that will be resolved this week, highlight the growing independence of the one-day game.

Of the 15 Australians picked for the Caribbean tour, seven are not involved in the present one-day thrash, eight if you include the injured Jason Gillespie. They include specialists like Michael Slater and Matthew Elliott, the opening batsmen, Ian Healy, the wicketkeeper, and Stuart MacGill, the wrist spinner. England have 15 players here now after Mark Alleyne's departure. Only five are first-choice Test players — Stewart, Hussain, Gough, Mullally and Headley.

Occasionally there is a convergence of the twain. Adam Dale, the 30-year-old seam bowler who has played just a single Test, may have thought that his international career was restricted to the one-day games. Yet, as a result of his one-day form, he is on the plane later this month, to supply the steady seam bowling that men such as Paul Reiffel have done in the past.

On the whole, though, the two games are drifting further apart. A player such as Mark Ealham, Kent's bowling all-rounder, may play Tests at home in the future, but he is unlikely to be on another tour. Adam Hollioake appears to be one degree under Test level, and Ashley Giles can expect greater opportunities as a one-day smotherer than a five-day spinner. Among the batsmen, Nick Knight may not come again at Test level, which is a shame, although he has an important part to play during the World Cup, as opener and superb all-round fielder.

The most interesting players in both teams are the left-handers, Neil Fairbrother and Michael Bevan. Both played Test cricket as young men, and neither really conquered it, although there was a time, two years ago, when the latter's unorthodox left-arm spin was buying a few wickets, that Bevan was on the cusp of a regular run in the Australia team.

Both men are excellent fielders, although one must enter a caveat against Fairbrother: when his hamstrings are not playing up. He remains doubtful for the first of the finals, at the Sydney Cricket Ground today (where heavy rain yesterday has put the match in some doubt), after missing the last two preliminary games with a recurrence of this old problem. There must be a real doubt that he can stand up to the strain of the World Cup.

Fairbrother was one of the "ones that got away". Picked as a 23-year-old by England in 1987, he got off to a bad start in his first Test and never found the composure to turn his bristling talent into something substantial.

LINKS

TELEVISION:
Sky Sports 2, 7.30am (live), 3pm (highlights)

☐ The Times one-day series hotline — 0891 881 461 Reports, updates and commentary Calls cost 50p per minute

Bevan is a more complicated man. In Yorkshire, and in Sussex, where he has played his county cricket, Bevan has shown himself to be a brilliant player and, in holding the innings together in one-day cricket, he has few peers. Australia bat him at No 6, with the task of finding the necessary runs in the final stages, and he has rewarded them with a sequence of important performances. He has also, from time to time, taken them close and not delivered victory.

Fairbrother, a mainstay of the Lancashire team through two decades of high achievement in the shorter game, has played in ten Lord's finals, and been a winner seven times. He played superbly for England in the 1992 World Cup, when they reached the final, but his half-century that night in Melbourne could not deny Pakistan.

Now, to his own astonishment, he is again a member of a World Cup party, restored to the side by Graham Thorpe's back injury and his own good form. His Test days were over long ago, and for a time it seemed his county career was far from secure, but he has returned with renewed purpose.

In the longer game, bowlers have exposed the shortcomings of both batsmen. Fast bowlers literally bounced Bevan into submission, while Fairbrother's technical weakness was outside off stump, where he would open the face of the bat — and still does — to run the ball down to third man.

In one-day cricket, where the short ball is penalised and there are fewer close fielders, they can manoeuvre the ball around the field with less risk. Both Bevan and Fairbrother are expert at pushing those tight singles and twos.

Fairbrother's importance to the England side has been seen all too clearly in this competition. Together with Hick, he forms the backbone of the middle order. Hussain has had his moments, but still looks stiff, and Crawley has missed the boat.

Bevan and Fairbrother, wise guys in the ways of the one-day world. Should Australia or England prosper this summer, and Australia almost certainly will, they will have done much to bring it about.

Wasim critical of umpire and slow pitch

FROM RICHARD HOBSON IN DELHI

THE harmony that has been so conspicuous through Pakistan's first significant tour of India for 12 years was threatened last night after Wasim Akram criticised the umpiring and the pitch in the second Test match in Delhi. As the touring team left for a three-day game in Kochi, which begins tomorrow, Cammie Smith, the match referee, confirmed that he was investigating comments made by the Pakistan captain in *The Pioneer*, an Indian newspaper.

Even if Smith decides that Wasim has not contravened the International Cricket Council (ICC) code of conduct by saying that Pakistan "got a couple of debatable decisions" during the defeat by 212 runs, then the player can be judged to have raised the matter ahead of the first game in the inaugural Asian Test Championship (ATC) next Tuesday.

There will be a measure of support in the international game for Wasim's suggestion that Tests should be officiated by two umpires from neutral countries instead of the present arrangement where a neutral operates alongside an umpire from the home nation. But because this is among the innovations agreed for the ATC — sanctioned by the sport's governing body — Wasim might have been better holding his tongue until after the match in Calcutta.

From the moment of arrival in India three weeks ago the tour has been a diplomatic and public relations triumph. However, the frequency and volume of Pakistan's appealing during the two Tests was criticised in the Indian press. Most newspapers also felt that the touring team enjoyed the better of the decisions in the first game in Madras.

A. V. Jayaprakash, from India, stood at the end from which Anil Kumble took ten wickets in the second innings on Sunday. He gave five batsmen out to catches close to the wicket and three leg-before. Replays did not prove error in any case.

Wasim, while acknowledging that the better side won in Delhi, said: "We need neutral umpires in all cricket and especially in an India-Pakistan series. That will prevent all controversy. If a neutral umpire makes the wrong decision, then both teams will accept it. I knew it was only a matter of time before the wicket played up and, to make matters worse, we also got a couple of debatable decisions."

Wasim felt that the pitch, a slow turner, placed too great an advantage on the side winning the toss. "How can it be fair when you lose the toss and your chances of winning the match are immediately reduced by half?" Wasim said. "I thought it might turn from the third day but Saqlain [Mushtaq] got it to turn viciously in the second session."

An unchanged India squad will reconvene at the weekend for the start of the ATC, a triangular tournament also involving Sri Lanka. The media here tends to be a little one-eyed and, if the papers decide in the interim that Wasim has cast a slur on their country, and on Jayaprakash in particular, then it will have implications for Eden Gardens, where the capacity is 70,000.



Wasim: controversy

Despite his criticisms, Wasim believes that the two-match series, which was independent of the ATC, emerged as a huge success once right-wing Hindu militants called off threats of disruptive action a week before the first Test. "It has shown that cricket can achieve what politics cannot," Wasim said. "The Indian people, like the Pakistanis, feel that cricket and politics should not mix."

Loye supplies ideal platform

BULAWAYO (first day of five: England A won toss): England A have scored 256 for four wickets against Zimbabwe A

FROM THRASY PETROPOULOS IN BULAWAYO

EIGHT years have passed since Mal Loye made his first appearance for Northamptonshire. Before the start of the last domestic season only seven first-class hundreds had followed. That figure now stands at 12, the latest of which he reached yesterday for England A in making an unbeaten 122 on the first day of the second "Test" in Bulawayo.

Loye's was the highlight of a professional, if occasionally muted, performance that has supplied a platform from which a sizeable first-innings total should follow.

Michael Vaughan won his sixth successive toss on tour but was infuriated with himself when, after eight scoreless overs, he steered Bryan Strang straight to gully.

Loye and Darren Maddy, the Leicestershire batsman, consolidated with an attractive partnership of 122 in 39 overs, Maddy contributing a solid 64 before turning Andy Whittall to short mid-on. Two more wickets fell before Loye, who moved to a century with his fourteenth boundary, and Vikram Solanki added 67 to take England to the close.

Gough plays leading role

WELLINGTON (second day of four): New Zealand Under-19, with all second-innings wickets in hand, are 60 runs behind England Under-19

FROM JOHN STERN IN WELLINGTON

ENGLAND Under-19 had the opportunity to bat New Zealand out of the series here yesterday. However, after lunch the second new ball halted their progress. They scored only 24 runs in 24 overs and lost their last four wickets for only two runs. England then failed to take a wicket in the final session.

Michael Gough, the England captain, batted for more than 6½ hours for 116, one run more than the lead his side achieved when they were bowled out for 225. He has worked hard on his off-side strokes and his driving looked in reasonable order. The century came up with his twelfth boundary, an on-driven four off Martin, the left-arm spinner. But, batting with the tail, Gough was caught behind as he drove with uncharacteristic abandon at James Franklin.

Gough's partnership of 142 with Richard Dawson, who batted with admirable application, was the only one of substance in the England innings. Shaw took five wickets, as he did in New Plymouth.

Scoreboards, page 37

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

This is a hand reported to me by Brian Jackson, one of the best players in the TGR £10 game. The play of the hearts depends on assumptions about the layout of the other suits.

Dealer South	Love all	Rubber bridge
	♠ A J 9 2 ♥ A K 4 3 ♦ A 5 ♣ Q 7 6	
♠ Q 8 7 ♥ J 8 7 6 ♦ 10 6 4 ♣ 10 8 2	N W E S	♠ 10 6 4 3 ♥ 5 ♦ K J 9 8 2 ♣ 9 5 3
	♠ K 5 ♥ Q 10 9 2 ♦ Q 7 3 ♣ A K J 4	

Contract: Seven No-Trumps by South. Lead: six of diamonds.

South opened One No-Trump (15-17) and North, into his fifth glass of TGR's Red Infuriator, ambitiously raised to Seven No-Trumps. West, a good player, led the six of diamonds. There was no chance of that being away from the king in a grand slam, but nevertheless declarer played low from dummy and the hand was over at trick one.

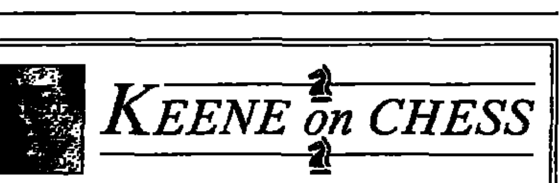
What declarer should do is take the ace of diamonds. He now has eleven tricks if he guesses the hearts: two in spades, four in hearts, one in diamonds and four in clubs. His best chance of two more is to find West with the queen of spades, and East with four spades and the king of diamonds. If that is the distribution, East will be squeezed in the end-game.

After winning the ace of diamonds declarer should take his club winners. Here all follow to three rounds, and each of West, North, and East discards a diamond on the fourth round. Now, how should declarer set about the hearts?

East has shown up with three clubs and two small diamonds. Along with the hypothesised king of diamonds and four spades, that means East does not have room to hold four hearts (an exercise in counting up to thirteen, which I hope anyone who doesn't see the point immediately will now do).

So declarer should play a heart to the ace and a heart back to the queen. East's singleton is revealed, and declarer continues by finessing against West's jack and cashing the last heart. That reduces everyone to four cards: East cannot keep 10643 of spades and the king of diamonds, and if he discards a spade all dummy's spades are good after declarer plays the king of spades and finesses the jack

☐ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.



KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Drawn outcome

Today I conclude my coverage of the important ten-game match between Michael Adams, England's top-ranked grandmaster, and Yasser Seirawan, the prominent US grandmaster. The final score of two wins each with six draws led to a tied outcome. I wrap up with the final decisive game and an exciting draw.

White: Michael Adams
Black: Yasser Seirawan
Mermaid Beach Club
Bermuda 1999

Caro-Kann Defence

1	e4	c6
2	d4	d5
3	Nd2	dxe4
4	Nxe4	Nd7
5	Bc4	Ngf6
6	Ng5	e6
7	Qe2	Nb6
8	Bb3	h6
9	N5f3	a5
10	c3	c5
11	dxc5	Bxc5
12	Ne5	0-0
13	Ngf3	Nbd7
14	0-0	Nxe5
15	Nxe5	b6
16	Qf3	Qc7
17	Ng4	Nxg4
18	Qxg4	f5
19	Qf3	Bd6
20	Qxa8	Bb7
21	Bxe6+	Kh8
22	Qxf8+	Bxf8
23	c4	Qe5
24	Bd5	Bxd5
25	cxd5	f4
26	Bd2	f3
27	Rfe1	Qd4
28	g3	Qxd2
29	Rad1	Qb4
30	a3	Qa4
31	Rd3	Be5
32	Rxd3	Qd4
33	b4	axb4
34	Rf4	Qd2
35	Re8+	Kh7
36	axb4	Bd6
37	Rf5	Qd3
38	Rf7	Qg6
39	Re6	Qxf7
40	Rxd6	b5
41	h4	Qe7
42	Rb6	Qe1+

White resigns

Diagram of final position

White: Yasser Seirawan
Black: Michael Adams
Mermaid Beach Club
Bermuda 1999

Irregular Opening

1	d4	d6
2	e4	Nf6
3	f3	d5
4	e5	Nfd7
5	f4	c5
6	Nf3	Nc6
7	c4	e6
8	cxd5	exd5
9	Nc3	cxd4
10	Nxd4	Ndxe5
11	Bb5	Bd7
12	Nxd5	Bc5
13	Nb3	Bg4
14	Qd2	Qh4+
15	Kf1	0-0-0
16	Nxc5	Be6
17	Nxe6	bxe6
18	g3	Qh3+
19	Qg2	Qxg2+
20	Kxg2	Rxd5
21	Be4	Nd3
22	Bb3	Rd6
23	Be3	b6
24	Rhf1	g6
25	Rab1	Kb7
26	Bd1	Rc8
27	Bf3	Kb8
28	Rfd1	Rcd8
29	Bxc6	Rxc6
30	Rd2	Rd5
31	Rbd1	Rcd6
32	b3	Nb4
33	Rxd5	Nxd5
34	Kf2	Rc6
35	Rd2	Kc7
36	Bd4	Rc1
37	Bb2	Rh1
38	Kf3	h5
39	Be5+	Kd7
40	Rc2	e5
41	Rd2	Rc1
42	Kg2	Ke8
43	Kh3	Kf7
44	Kh4	b5
45	Bb2	Rc5
46	Bd4	Rc1
47	Bb2	Draw agreed

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

OCOTILLO
a. A dance
b. A sherry
c. A cactus

SABIR
a. A teacher
b. A pidgin
c. A corkscrew dagger

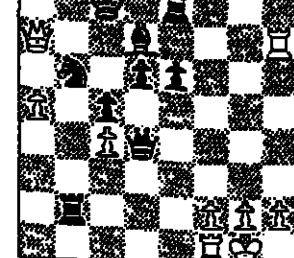
RAZET
a. A breed of dog
b. A ballet step
c. Bloodless bullfighting

RIRORIRO
a. A washerman
b. A warbler
c. Sheep's eye as delicacy

Answers on page 38

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene



Black to play. This position is from the game Kecic — Krumpacnik, Slovenia, 1998.

Black is two pieces ahead but, surprisingly, has some difficulties as his knight is threatened and the white queen and rook are a powerful force. Black's next move cleverly set up a winning tactic for him. What did he play?

Solution on page 38

Teeton Mill given top mark ahead of Suny Bay as Aintree handicap is unveiled

Pitman advocates value of feminine touch

By Chris McGrath



JENNY PITMAN, the first lady of Aintree, is recommending a policy of "ladies first" for the 1999 Martell Grand National. Such deference owes nothing to good manners and everything to the fact that women trainers could look at the weights for the great steeplechase, published yesterday, and consider themselves first among equals.

In 1983, Mrs Pitman became the first to train a National winner, Corbiere, and followed up 12 years later with Royal Athlete — albeit neither victory will linger as long in the memory, perhaps, as the hollow one of Esha Ness in the tragicomedy of 1993.

Despite having recently confirmed her continuing fortitude in a sterner battle — for her health — Mrs Pitman is offering just one candidate for this year's race. Nor, predictably, does she feel that Nahthen Lad, a 25-1 chance, has ever prised himself free of the handicapper's attentions.

Nonetheless she urged punters to consider the lucrative possibilities of the Tote's offer of 11-2 against "Girl Power", as the other eight entries made by female trainers include two from the stable of Venetia Williams: Teeton Mill, whose King George VI Chase success earns him top-weight, and General Wolfe, who demonstrated at Uttoxeter on Saturday that Aintree does not have a monopoly on blood-curdling falls. The good fortune that saw him walk away unscathed there would serve him well on April 10.

"That's got to be a good bet," she said. Nahthen Lad was second to Clever Remark at Sandown on Saturday but his trainer feels that he has never been forgiven for winning at the Cheltenham Festival as a novice. "They've been hard, treated him like a Gold Cup horse," she said.

"Unfortunately, he got a bit demoralised. He was beaten by a horse carrying a stone and a half less at Sandown, so don't look at the distance we were beaten but at how far we pulled away from the third."

The precept of handicap races is that the runners, awarded different weights to reflect their relative talents, start on a level playing field. Nonetheless, the simple matter of lead weight decided Suny Bay's fate when he toiled nobly into second again last year. Teeton Mill will be some horse if he can go one better after first tackling Florida Pearl in the Tote Cheltenham Gold Cup, though at least the 23-day interval this year allows more breathing space than has sometimes been the case.

Coral offers 33-1 against the grey completing the double, compared with 50-1 against Cyfor Malta, one of 14 entries trained by Martin Pipe. 66-1 against Double Thriller, 80-1 Escartefigue, 100-1 Unsinkable Boxer and 150-1 Suny Bay. Williams, weary of the rumours that she has found to go with the new territory she has conquered this season, reiterated that Teeton Mill is "absolutely fine" after one or two minor problems since Kempton.

"It's a situation one always hoped to be in, one day, but it's terrifying once one actually gets here," she said. Phil Smith, who recently succeeded Christopher Mordaunt as chasing handicapper, might tell her that his is a more invidious position. His style is more aggressive than that of his predecessor and has prompted some criticism from trainers.

Happily, there was no grousing about the weights for his first National. Dismissing his baptism of fire as "a storm in a teacup", Smith said: "I've had support from those I would consider the top five trainers in the country, which has been very reassuring. I hope trainers get used to big drops and big rises. That's my style and I hope they accept that and work with me rather than against me." Big rises and big drops: it is certainly an appropriate approach to Aintree.

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: BACCHANAL (1.50 Chepstow)

Nicky Henderson's charge was second to the useful Toncho on his hurdling debut and can step up here.

Next best: Kid's King (2.50 Chepstow)

JULIAN HERBERT / ALLSPORT



Earth Summit leads home Suny Bay in last year's National

History lessons worth heeding

By Richard Evans, Racing Correspondent

FAR from being another national lottery, the Martell Grand National has become one of the easier big races to solve in recent years because of winners regularly fulfilling two connected criteria.

First — and foremost — horses allocated less than 11 stone, and preferably between 10 stone and 10st 8lb, enjoy a huge advantage. Corbiere in 1983 was the last to carry more than 11 stone to victory and since then only two have successfully carried more than 10st 8lb.

The reason is simple. The further a horse runs, the greater the burden posed by every extra pound on its back. The Grand National distance of 4½ miles is longer than any other race in the calendar which effectively means those runners towards the top of the handicap face a double penalty in the final stages.

Identifying runners in the correct weight band two months before the race can be tricky for those at the top of the handicap could fall by the wayside, prompting a hefty rise in the weights.

However, a second sieve through which National aspirants must pass involves their official BHB rating. In the past dozen runnings, the winner has come from a narrow band — 146 to 157 — confirming the suspicion that a horse with a touch of class and a low weight is an ideal combination.

With that in mind, two horses make long range appeal at their current odds. The "obvious" selection is Double Thriller, generally available at 12-1 but as low as 9-1 favourite with the Tote. The lightly raced nine-year-old famously beat Teeton Mill at Cheltenham last April when trained by his owner, Reg Wilkins.

He has since joined Paul Nicholls' powerful yard and on his seasonal appearance at Wincanton recently he hacked up against some decent handicappers.

"I think he is a real Grand National type. He jumps well, stays well and has a touch of class," Nicholls said yesterday. "He is such a big horse that even if the weights go up and he has to carry a bit more it won't make any difference."

Martin Pipe has made his usual block entry but the runner who will be difficult to keep out of the frame is Eudipe, a recent Sandown winner, who boasts an impressive catalogue of big-race form and is worth a small each-way investment at 20-1.

GRAND NATIONAL WEIGHTS AND ANTE-POST BETTING

TEETON MILL (Miss V Williams)	10yrs, 12st 0lb
SUNY BAY (S Sherwood)	10-11-13
ESCARTEFIGUE (D Nicholson)	7-11-8
CYFOR MALTA (M Pipe)	6-11-4
GENERAL WOLFE (Miss V Williams)	10-11-1
EARTH SUMMIT (N Twiston-Davies)	11-11-0
GO BALLISTIC (D Nicholson)	10-10-13
OR ROYAL (M Pipe)	8-10-12
LORD GYLLENE (S Brookshaw)	11-10-12
COOME HILL (W Dennis)	10-10-11
CYBORGO (M Pipe)	9-10-11
EUDIPE (M Pipe)	7-10-10
DOUBLE THRILLER (P Nicholls)	9-10-8
UNSINKABLE BOXER (M Pipe)	10-10-8
SENOR EL BETRUTTI (Mrs S Nock)	10-10-7
BELMONT KING (P Nicholls)	11-10-7
ADDINGTON BOY (F Murphy)	11-10-7
UNGUIDED MISSILE (N Richards)	11-10-7
ROUGH QUEST (T Casey)	13-10-7
TAMARINDO (M Pipe)	6-10-4
HANAKHAM (M Pipe)	10-10-3
DR LEUNT (P Hobbs)	8-10-3
FIDDLING THE FACTS (N Henderson)	8-10-3
BARONET (D Nicholson)	9-10-2
PAPILLON (T Walsh, Ire)	8-10-1
CALL IT A DAY (D Nicholson)	9-10-0
BELLS LIFE (P Hobbs)	10-10-0
MORCELI (J H Johnson)	11-10-0
AVRO ANSON (Miss J Camacho)	11-10-0
BANJO (P Nicholls)	9-9-11
KENDAL CAVALIER (N Hawke)	9-9-11
RIVER LOSSIE (C Egerton)	10-9-7
CALLISOE BAY (O Sherwood)	10-9-7
NAHTHEN LAD (Mrs J Pitman)	10-9-7
MELY MOSS (C Egerton)	8-9-7
EVEN FLOW (T Casey)	10-9-6
PHILIP'S WOODY (N Henderson)	11-9-6
MUDAHIM (P Hobbs)	13-9-6
ANABATIC (M O'Brien, Ire)	11-9-5
SAMLEE (P Hobbs)	10-9-4
TORDUFF EXPRESS (P Nicholls)	8-9-3
KING LUCIFER (D Nicholson)	10-9-3
JATHIB (M Pipe)	8-9-3
DANGER BABY (P Bowen)	9-9-2
FINE THYNE (Mrs A Perrett)	10-9-2
BOBBYJO (T Carberry, Ire)	9-9-0
BUCK ROGERS (V Bowens, Ire)	10-9-0
LINDEN'S LOTTO (A Martin, Ire)	10-9-0
TREBLE BOB (D Weld, Ire)	9-8-13
CELTIC ABBEY (Mrs C Hardinge)	11-8-13
BETTY'S BOY (K Bailey)	10-8-13
BRAVE HIGHLANDER (J Gifford)	11-8-12
STEP ON EYRE (H Daly)	9-8-12
TIME FOR A RUN (E O'Grady, Ire)	12-8-12
WYLDE HIDE (A Moore, Ire)	12-8-12
BLUE CHARM (Mrs S Bradburne)	9-8-12
COMMERCIAL ARTIST (D McCain)	13-8-11
FRAZER ISLAND (R Rowe)	10-8-11
ANOTHER EXCUSE (E O'Sullivan, Ire)	11-8-10
CARIBOO GOLD (K Bailey)	10-8-9
HOLLYBANK BUCK (A Martin, Ire)	9-8-9
PARAHANDY (J Mullins)	9-8-9
STRONG CHAIRMAN (P Nicholls)	8-8-9
SHANAGARRY (F Murphy)	10-8-8
WITH IMPUNITY (P Nicholls)	10-8-8
MERRY PEOPLE (J Queally, Ire)	11-8-7
FARFADET V (M Pipe)	6-8-6
CAMELOT KNIGHT (N Twiston-Davies)	13-8-6
EMERALD STATEMENT (D Grissell)	9-8-6
CAVALERO (H Manners)	10-8-5
DRUID'S BROOK (K Bailey)	10-8-4
BAVARD DIEU (N Gaselee)	11-8-3
ISLAND CHIEF (P Beaumont)	10-8-2
GO GO GALLANT (A Lee, Ire)	10-8-1
LIVER BIRD (J A Berry, Ire)	9-8-1
MISS DISKIN (R Buckler)	10-8-1
DIWALI DANCER (M Pipe)	9-8-1
DAMAS (D McCain)	8-8-0
OVER THE DEEL (J H Johnson)	13-8-0
DECYBORG (M Pipe)	8-7-13
CASTLE COIN (J H Johnson)	7-7-13
RAKAZONA BEAU (P Bowen)	9-7-13
CHOISTY (H Haynes)	9-7-12
OBAN (Miss H Knight)	9-7-12
WATERLOO KING (J Walsh, Ire)	12-7-12
TELL THE NIPPER (M Pipe)	8-7-12
BALLYMACREVAN (I Duncan, Ire)	9-7-12
FEELS LIKE GOLD (N Richards)	11-7-12
IRISH STAMP (F Murphy)	10-7-11
BALLYLINE (W Kemp)	8-7-10
ST MELLION FAIRWAY (M Pipe)	10-7-10
OAKLANDS WORD (P Bowen)	10-7-10
BACK BAR (D McCain)	11-7-10
JOLIVER (M Pipe)	11-7-10
AROUND THE GALE (D Gandolfo)	8-7-6

Not qualified: Amercius, Indestructible, Kentucky Gold, Oakler, Ozier Hill, Pinkpinkfizz, What A Hand, Tipstaff.

To be run at Aintree on April 10

CORAL: 10-1 Teeton Mill, 12-1 Double Thriller, 14-1 Cyfor Malta, Suny Bay, 16-1 General Wolfe, 20-1 Baronet, Escartefigue, Eudipe, Go Ballistic, Kendal Cavalier, Nahthen Lad, 25-1 Addington Boy, Call It A Day, Earth Summit, Fiddling The Facts, Hanakham, Rough Quest, 33-1 bar

LADBROKES: 10-1 Teeton Mill, 12-1 Cyfor Malta, Double Thriller, 14-1 Eudipe, General Wolfe, 16-1 Suny Bay, 20-1 Baronet, 25-1 Addington Boy, Call It A Day, Earth Summit, Fiddling The Facts, Lord Gyllene, Nahthen Lad, 33-1 bar

TOTE: 9-1 Double Thriller, 11-1 Teeton Mill, 14-1 General Wolfe, 16-1 Cyfor Malta, Eudipe, Suny Bay, 20-1 Belmont King, Earth Summit, Lord Gyllene, 25-1 Dr Leunt, Escartefigue, Go Ballistic, Hanakham, 33-1 bar.

WILLIAM HILL: 10-1 Teeton Mill, 12-1 Double Thriller, General Wolfe, 14-1 Cyfor Malta, Suny Bay, 16-1 Lord Gyllene, 20-1 Escartefigue, Eudipe, 25-1 Addington Boy, Baronet, Call It A Day, Fiddling The Facts, Go Ballistic, Nahthen Lad, Papillon, 33-1 bar

CHEPSTOW

THUNDERER

1.50 NATIVE KING (nap) 2.20 Marlborough 2.50 Bosuns Mate 3.20 Naughty Future 3.50 Bonny 4.20 Tinotops 4.50 Little Gunner

Timekeeper's top rating: 1.50 BACCHANAL.

Carl Evans: 4.20 Tinotops

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT (7.45AM INSPECTION) SIS

1.50 EBF NH NOVICES HURDLE (£2,332: 2m 110yd) (6 runners)

1 31 NATIVE KING 68 (D,G) (Doubleprint) J Old 7-11-10 ... T J Murphy 77
2 F01-51 BARNEYS BELL 60 (S) (F Mills & W Mills) N Twiston-Davies 7-11-5 ... C Llewellyn 61
3 2 BACCHANAL 13 (Lady Lloyd Webber) N Henderson 5-11-0 ... M A Fitzgerald [illegible]
4 ROP MORTS LITTLE HEN 90 (T Morton) T Morton 6-10-9 ... J Mogford (7) –
5 0-3110 ROBORETTE 23 (S) (T Wadsworth) J Neville 6-10-9 ... S Durack –
6 0-0 SWEET SYMPHONY 95 (G Small) R Hodges 6-10-9 ... P Holley –

BETTING: Evens Bacchanal, 2-1 Native King, 6-1 Barneys Bell, 7-1 Roborette, 50-1 others.

1998: GATFLAX 6-11-10 W Marston (evens fav) N Twiston-Davies 13 ran

FORM FOCUS: Native King beat Artemis 10l in 11-runner novice hurdle at Sandown (2m 110yd, good), previously 6½l 3rd of 19 to Monsignor in national hunt flat race at Sandown (2m 110yd, good). Barneys Bell beat Playford 6l in 15-runner novice hurdle at Lingfield (2m 3f 110yd, soft), previously 12l 5th of 11 to Forgotten Hero in national hunt flat race at Taunton (2m 1f, good). Bacchanal 1¼l 2nd of 10 to Tonoco in novice hurdle at Huntingdon (2m 110yd, soft). Morts Little Hen pulled up in maiden hurdle at Ludlow (2m 5f 110yd, good), previously beaten a distance last of 9 to Raleagh Native in novice hurdle at Worcester (2m 2f, good). Roborette beaten a distance 10th of 15 to Kings Boy in novice hurdle at Doncaster (2m 4f, good), previously beat Macaw-Bay 3l in 10-runner mares national hunt flat at Folkestone (2m 1f 110yd, good to soft). Sweet Symphony beaten a distance last of 11 to Native Arrow in national hunt flat race at Wincanton (2m, good)

BACCHANAL finished clear of the remainder when second to last Saturday's grade 2 winner, Tonoco

2.20 ASPIRING CHAMPIONS NOVICES CHASE (£8,208: 3m) (6 runners)

1 3-U111 MARLBOROUGH 18 (D,S) (R Ogden) H Daly 7-11-12 ... R Dunwoody [illegible]
2 4-3212 HOLDIMCLOSE 13 (F,S) (Mrs C Loze) R Frost 9-11-8 ... J Frost 106
3 24-1P2 ACT IN TIME 32 (D,S) (Mrs G McFerran) T George 7-11-3 ... T Jenks 109
4 00-1 INDIAN MISS 55 (S) (J & J Richards) M Pipe 7-11-3 ... C Maude 74
5 2-304P SEE ENOUGH 23 (D,S) (J Meaden) R Buckler 11-11-3 ... J Tizzard 132
6 24P355 BALLY LIRA 18 (S) (V Thorne) P Rodford 7-10-12 ... S Burrough 104

BETTING: 1-2 Marlborough, 11-2 Indian Miss, 7-1 Holdimclose, Act In Time, 20-1 See Enough, 50-1 Bally Lira.

1998: ESCARTEFIGUE 6-11-12 A Maguire (5-4 fav) D Nicholson 8 ran

FORM FOCUS: Marlborough beat Spring Double 9l in 8-runner novice chase at Kempton (3m, soft) with Bally Lira (4lb better off) 41l 5th. Holdimclose 17l 2nd of 7 to Andsuephi in novice chase at Wincanton (2m 5f, soft), previously beat Prime Chance 20l in 10-runner novice chase at Exeter (2m 7f 110yd, heavy). Act In Time 18l 2nd of 5 to Kurakka in novice chase at Sandown (2m 4f 110yd, soft). Indian Miss beat Kionahalla 6l in 9-runner mares novice chase at Exeter (2m 3f, soft), previously 29l 11th of 22 to Kates Charm in national hunt flat race at Ascot (2m 110yd, good). See Enough pulled up in novice chase at Plumpton (3m 1f 110yd, heavy), previously 13l 4th of 5 to Emerald Statement in novice chase at Folkestone (3m 2f, soft).

MARLBOROUGH has taken particularly well to chasing and can book his ticket to Cheltenham

2.50 PERSIAN WAR PREMIER NOVICES HURDLE (Grade II: £9,375: 2m 4f 110yd) (5 runners)

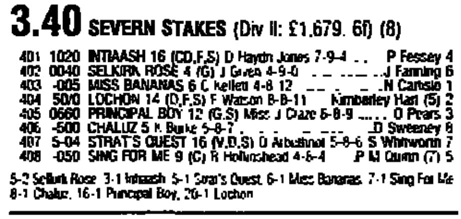
1 11-211 BOSUNS MATE 39 (F,G,S) (H Parker) N Twiston-Davies 6-11-12 ... C Llewellyn 117
2 1-1132 RIO'S KING 38 (CD,G,S) (Gascoigne Brookes Partnership) J Tuck 7-11-12 W Marston 110
3 5-1111 KINGSMARK 18 (S) (R Ogden) O Sherwood 6-11-9 ... R Dunwoody 108
4 1 12 BORO SOVEREIGN 27 (BF,G,S) (L Wilson) N Henderson 6-11-6 ... M A Fitzgerald 104
5 322-32 WHO DARES WINS 38 (Mrs A Meller) J J O'Neill 6-11-6 ... R McGrath [illegible]

BETTING: 2-1 Rio's King, 9-4 Bosuns Mate, 5-2 Kingsmark, 8-1 Boro Sovereign, 12-1 Who Dares Wins.

1998: RED CURATE 7-11-6 W Marston (25-1) G McCourt 11 ran

FORM FOCUS: Bosuns Mate beat Yeoman Sailor 5l in 10-runner novice hurdle at Newbury (3m 110yd, soft), previously beat Irish Banker 9l in 6-runner novice hurdle grade 2 at Cheltenham (3m 110yd, good to soft). Rio's King 2l 2nd of 5 to King's Road in novice hurdle grade 1 at Newbury (2m 5f, soft), previously 9½l 3rd of 13 to All Gong in novice hurdle at Cheltenham (2m 1f, good to soft). Kingsmark beat Gentle Rivage 5l in 9-runner novice hurdle at Kempton (2m 5f, soft), previously beat Saleel 3½l in 13-runner novice hurdle at Folkestone (2m 6f 110yd, soft). Boro Sovereign ½l 2nd of 13 to Hardly in novice hurdle at Wincanton (2m, soft), previously beat Molly Fitz... in 7-runner national hunt flat race at Huntingdon (2m 110yd, soft). Who Dares Wins 1¼l 2nd of 11 to Go Ca Ma... in novice hurdle at Ayr (2m 6f, heavy).

RIO'S KING is not the most tractable of performers but the ability is definitely there



SPECIALISTS

LUDLOW: Trainers: J J O'Neill, 5 winners from 12 runners, 41.7%. N Henderson, 11 from 27, 40.7%. D Nicholson, 19 from 53, 35.8%. Miss V Williams, 6 from 17, 35.3%. **Jockeys:** A McCoy, 23 winners from 78 rides, 29.5%. J Osborne, 6 from 26, 23.1%; J Tizley, 7 from 31, 22.6%. A Maguire, 15 from 68, 22.1%.

WOLVERHAMPTON: Trainers: M Johnston, 47 winners from 241 runners, 19.5%. J Toller, 4 from 21, 19.0%. P Haslam, 30 from 187, 16.0%. Miss L Siddall, 6 from 59, 13.6%. **Jockeys:** N Callan, 4 winners from 11 rides, 36.4%. J P Spencer, 3 from 12, 25.0%; R Cochrane, 19 from 100, 19.0%. O Pears, 7 from 46, 15.2%.

3.20 JOHN HUGHES GRAND NATIONAL TRIAL (HANDICAP CHASE) (£8,153: 3m 2f 110yd) (6 runners)

1 F111-F EARTHMOVER 98 (BF,C,D,F,G,S) (R Penny) P Nicholls 8-11-10 ... J Tizzard 127
2 13P-1P SPARKLING CONE 39 (BF,C,S) (Mrs M Horton) Miss V Williams 10-10-9 R Dunwoody 153
3 11030R DANGER BABY 60 (B,D,F,G,S) (Shark Racing) P Bowen 9-10-9 ... T J Murphy 162
4 011F-P A N C EXPRESS 16 (C,D,G,S) (H Porter) J King 11-10-4 ... T Jenks [illegible]
5 11-213 NAUGHTY FUTURE 16 (G,S) (A Collins) J J O'Neill 10-10-0 ... R McGrath 153
6 14-355 PENNYMOOR PRINCE 20 (CD,S) (N Lake) R Frost 10-10-0 ... J Frost 138

Long handicap: Naughty Future 9-12, Pennymoor Prince 8-7

BETTING: 9-4 Sparkling Cone, 5-2 Earthmover, 3-1 Naughty Future, 13-2 A N C Express, 8-1 Danger Baby, 20-1 Pennymoor Prince

1998: OTTOWA 8-11-4 T J Murphy (11-2) P Nicholls 11 ran

FORM FOCUS: Earthmover fell in handicap chase at Newton Abbot (3m 2f 110yd, soft), previously beat Stay In Touch 18l in 11-runner hunter chase at Cheltenham (3m 2f 110yd, good). Sparkling Cone pulled up in handicap chase at Newbury (3m 2f 110yd, soft), previously beat Majors Legacy 7l in 7-runner handicap chase at Towcester (3m 1f soft). Danger Baby refused in handicap chase at Doncaster (3m 2f, good); previously 43l 7th of 12 to Cyfor Malta in handicap chase grade 3 at Cheltenham (2m 4f 110yd, good to soft). Naughty Future 9½l 3rd of 7 to Island Chief in handicap chase at Wetherby (3m 1f, soft) with A N C Express (2lb better off) pulled up. Pennymoor Prince 30l 5th of 11 to Zaggy Lane in handicap chase at Taunton (3m 3f, heavy), previously 16l 5th of 7 to Clever Remark in handicap chase at Exeter (2m 7f 110yd, good).

Last season's Foxhunters' hero EARTHMOVER is potentially well in at the weights

3.50 FEBRUARY CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (£1,884: 2m 110yd) (9 runners)

1 3P-200 SHARBADARID 53 (J Price) J K Price 6-11-12 ... Michael Brennan 78
2 0633-4 THE SWAN 30 (BF) (T Sandeas) R Frost 6-11-3 ... T O'Connor (5) 43
3 006342 STRETCHING 18F (A Price) A Juckes 6-11-2 ... Mark Smith (5) 63
4 B0P-4P DAISY 153 (G Hullett) R Baker 6-11-1 ... G Sheridn (3) 35
5 0503-2 BONNY 20 (D Wintle) D Wintle 6-10-13 ... J Mogford (5) 59
6 24000 CHUNITO 79 (D Lloyd) D Lloyd 4-10-8 ... J Power (5) 75
7 50-03 WONDERBOY 35 (Come Racing Ltd) J R Poulton 5-10-5 ... J J Best (7) 78
8 23P-00 CHARLIE CHANG 57 (Mrs S Gent) B Llewellyn 6-10-3 ... J Tizzard [illegible]
9 0003-P SEE MINNOW 85 (Miss S Waterman) Miss S Waterman 6-10-0 ... D O'Sullivan (5) –

Long handicap: See Minnow 9-9

BETTING: 11-4 Stretching, 3-1 The Swan, 7-2 Wonderboy, 5-1 Bonny, 8-1 Sharbadarid, 12-1 Chunito, 20-1 others

1998: NO CORRESPONDING RACE.

FORM FOCUS: Sharbadarid 87l 12th of 17 to Andy's Lad in amateur novice handicap hurdle at Warwick (2m 3f, soft), previously 28l 8th of 14 to Mimosa in novice handicap hurdle at Huntingdon (3m 4f 110yd, good to firm). The Swan 33l 4th of 6 to Doctor Bravious in selling hurdle at Taunton (2m 1f, heavy), previously 4½l 3rd of 15 to Circle Of Magic in selling hurdle at Taunton (2m 1f, soft) with Bonny (4lb better off) 9l 5th. Stretching 5l 2nd of 18 to Desert Power in novice claiming hurdle at Ludlow (2m, good to soft). Daisy pulled up in selling hurdle at Newton Abbot (2m 1f, good to soft), previously 22l 4th of 13 to Gaian in maiden hurdle at Worcester (2m, good to firm). Bonny 1¼l 2nd of 19 to Coble in selling handicap hurdle at Ludlow (2m, soft). Chunito 33l 7th of 11 to Rajah in selling hurdle at Ludlow (2m, good). Wonderboy 10l 3rd of 7 to Park Royal in selling hurdle at Lingfield (2m 110yd, heavy). Charlie Chang beaten a distance 9th of 14 to Granby Bell in novice handicap hurdle at Hereford (2m 3f 110yd, good to soft)

BONNY shaped well on his reappearance and has solid claims off a 3lb higher mark

4.20 EARTHSTOPPERS HUNTERS CHASE (£1,506: 3m) (5 runners)

1 22U1-2 AVOSTAR 10P (D,G,S) (R Russell) Mrs C Bailey 12-12-7 ... Mr B Pollock 86
2 521F-2 SAFFRON MOSS 17P (CD,F,S) (Mrs S Fan) Mrs S Fan 9-12-4 ... Mr R Forristal 32
3 311-F1 TINOTOPS 11P (D,F,G,S) (R Targett) Mrs R Vickery 9-12-4 ... Mr L Jefford (3) [illegible]
4 425/P5 CHARDEN 25P (V,D,G) (Col R Webb-Bowen) J Mullins 13-12-1 Col R Webb-Bowen (7) –
5 11/PP- MISS MILLBROOK 337 (CD,F,G,S) D Goldsworthy 11-11-10 ... Mr E Williams (3) –

BETTING: 6-4 Tinotops, 7-4 Avostar, 5-1 Saffron Moss, Miss Millbrook, 50-1 Charden.

1998: PRECARIUM 10-12-0 Mr J M Pritchard (14-1) Mrs N Sheppard 6 ran

FORM FOCUS: Avostar beat Saffron Flame 8l in 4-runner hunter chase at Folkestone (3m 2f, good). Saffron Moss fell in hunter chase at Chepstow (3m, good), previously beat Archer 2½l in 11-runner hunter chase at Chepstow (3m, heavy). Tinotops beat Rightsaidfred ½l in 8-runner hunter chase at Huntingdon (3m, good to soft). Charden pulled up in handicap chase at Towcester (3m 1f, good to soft), previously 17l 5th of 10 to King's Treasure in hunter chase at Stratford (3m, good to firm)

AVOSTAR won a similar event last season and has a recent second to his name between the flags

4.50 TONY PRESTON HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,736: 2m 4f 110yd) (8 runners)

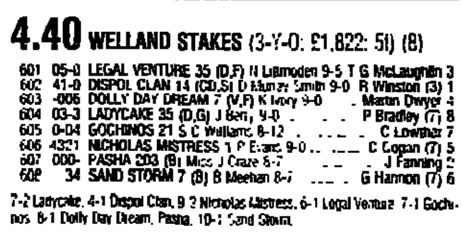
1 1/1PP- CLAUDIA ELECTRIC 368 (D,G,S) (Mrs M Jobnsey) Miss C Jobnsey 7-11-10 O Gallagher –
2 F0-P00 GARNWIN 23 (D,F,G,S) (Pioneer Heat-Treatment) N Henderson 9-11-5 ... L Vickers (7) 88
3 /P5-P3 ALLEZ WIJINS 21 (D,G,S) (Mrs C Hanbury) N Henderson 10-11-4 ... M A Fitzgerald 78
4 -26512 DARK KESTREL 23 (D,S) (Mrs J Mayo) C Mann 6-11-4 ... C Rafter (7) 105
5 02624 NASHKAPOUR 41 (S Carroll) P Hobbs 6-11-3 ... R Dunwoody 95
6 -54600 ROYAL ARCTIC 28 (G,S) (T Syder) S Mellor 9-10-9 ... C Webb 112
7 -43220 AINSI SOIT IL 15 (B,CD,G,S) (A-Men Partnership) G McCourt 8-10-8 ... E Husband 104
8 6630F- LITTLE GUNNER 319 (S) (A Bailey) C J Price 9-10-4 ... B Fenton 101

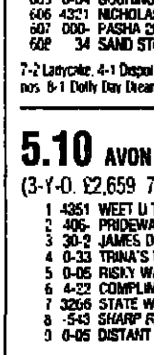
BETTING: 11-4 Allez Wijins, 3-1 Dark Kestrel, 4-1 Nashkapour, 9-2 Ainsi Soit Il, 10-1 Royal Arctic, Little Gunner, 14-1 Garnwin, 25-1 Claudia Electric

1998: NO CORRESPONDING RACE.

FORM FOCUS: Garnwin 23l 7th of 19 to Memsahib Ofesteem in handicap hurdle at Doncaster (2m 4f, good), previously 26l 8th of 13 to Charlie Banker in handicap hurdle at Windsor (2m 4f, good to soft). Allez Wijins 8l 3rd of 8 to Castle Owen in handicap hurdle at Huntingdon (2m 5f 110yd, soft). Dark Kestrel 4l 2nd of 5 to Millmount in handicap hurdle at Plumpton (2m 4f, heavy); previously beat Bessie Browne ½l in 5-runner handicap hurdle at Leicester (2m 4f 110yd, soft). Nashkapour 12l 4th of 19 to Premier Generation in novice hurdle at Warwick (2m, soft). Royal Arctic 48l 10th of 17 to Atavistic in handicap hurdle at Kempton (3m 110yd, heavy). Ainsi Soit Il beaten a distance 11th of 13 to Stormhill Stag in handicap hurdle at Fontwell (2m 6f 110yd, soft), previously 7l 2nd of 7 to Moondigua in handicap hurdle at Warwick (2m 4f 110yd, heavy)

GARNWIN rather lost his way over fences but is capable of winning over hurdles off his present mark





COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Wins	Rnrs	%
Miss V Williams	7	15	46.7	J Tizzard	8	18	44.4
P Nicholls	29	96	30.2	D O'Sullivan	6	26	23.1
P Hobbs	25	96	26.0	R Dunwoody	19	96	19.8
J Mullins	3	12	25.0	T J Murphy	7	41	17.1
J Old	9	39	23.1	P Holley	3	19	15.8
M Pipe	37	187	19.8	W Marston	11	70	15.7

Frost takes bite out of fixtures

THE card at Warwick yesterday was lost to frost, joining Carlisle, which had been called off the previous day. Frost also threatens Ludlow and Chepstow today.

At Ludlow, the clerk of the course, Bob Davies, said: "About 90 per cent of the course is raceable, but the temperature has not risen as much as forecast and the chances must be poor."

However, Rodger Farrant, was more upbeat about Chepstow. "We could have raced today," he said. "There are still some touches of frost in odd patches, but I am hopeful."

There will be an inspection at Wincanton for tomorrow's fixture. Ian Renton, the clerk of the course, said: "The course is frozen. A severe frost is forecast, and if that is correct prospects are bleak."

A spokeswoman for Huntingdon, also scheduled to race tomorrow, said: "It's frozen and the forecast is poor."

Newbury, though, is confident of staging its Tote Gold Trophy meeting on Friday and Saturday.

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Lingfield Park

Going: standard

2.00 (1m) 1, **Teofilio** (T Sprake, 2-1 fav); 2, Famous (40-1); 3, Waiting Knight (3-1). 10 ran. 3½l, ½l. A McNae. Tote £2.80; £1.50, £5.00, £1.10. DF £42.90. CSF £87.90.

2.30 (1m 2f) 1, **An Executive Do** (P Goode, 4-5 fav); 2, King Flyer (2-1); 3, Little Henry (16-1). 8 ran. Hd, 5l. P Haslam. Tote £1.70; £1.30, £1.10, £1.40. DF £2.00. CSF £2.70.

3.00 (6f) 1, **Devilletta** (A Garth, 6-4 fav); 2, Love Opera (3-1); 3, Scumlous (25-1). 8 ran. 5l, 2½l. J Gosden. Tote £2.50; £1.00, £1.50, £9.80. DF £4.40. CSF £6.50.

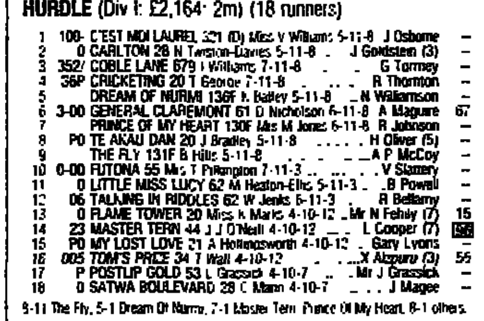
3.30 (1m 2f) 1, **White Plains** (N Callan, 7-2); 2, Scraggy's Dream (5-1); 3, Unreal City (3-1). Space Race (5th) 9-4 fav. 6 ran. 1½l, 6l. K Burke. Tote £5.00; £1.90, £1.80. DF £9.90. CSF £19.84.

4.00 (2m) 1, **Harik** (P Doe, 6-1); 2, Padauk (3-1 fav); 3, Musalse (10-1). 13 ran. 2l, 3l. G L Moore. Tote £6.70; £2.40, £1.90, £2.20. DF £23.90. Tote Trifecta: £315.10. CSF £30.84. Tricast £229.89.

4.30 (6f) 1, **Nicholas Mistress** (J Quinn, 10-1); 2, Royal Preview (4-6 fav); 3, Cantgetyourbreath (20-1). 7 ran. Hd, 3l. P Evans. Tote £9.00; £3.70, £1.10. DF £4.70. CSF £16.52.

Jackpot: £7,100.00 - part won (pool of £2,778.21 carried forward to Wolverhampton today).

Placepot: £17.60. Quadpot: £16.30.



LUDLOW

THUNDERER

1.30 The Fly. 2.00 Irish Sea. 2.30 Knock Leader. 3.00 Brush With Fame. 3.30 Shining Light. 4.00 Saddlers' Roe. 4.30 George Ashford. 5.00 Mithak.

Carl Evans: 4.30 Tug Of Peace.

GOING: GOOD (7.30AM INSPECTION) SIS

1.30 KILVERTS HOTEL, HAY ON WYE MAIDEN HURDLE (Div I: £2,164: 2m) (18 runners)

1 100- C'EST MOI LAUREL 321 (D) Miss V Williams 5-11-8 J Osborne –
2 0 CARLTON 28 N Twiston-Davies 5-11-8 ... J Goldstein (3) –
3 352/ COBLE LANE 679 I Williams 7-11-8 ... G Tormey –
4 36P CRICKETING 20 T George 7-11-8 ... R Thornton –
5 DREAM OF NURMI 136F K Bailey 5-11-8 ... N Williamson –
6 3-00 GENERAL CLAREMONT 61 D Nicholson 6-11-8 A Maguire 67
7 PRINCE OF MY HEART 130F Mrs M Jones 6-11-8 R Johnson –
8 P0 TE AKAU DAN 20 J Bradley 5-11-8 ... H Oliver (5) –
9 THE FLY 131F B Hills 5-11-8 ... A P McCoy –
10 0-00 FUTONA 55 Mrs T Pilkington 7-11-3 ... V Slattery –
11 0 LITTLE MISS LUCY 62 M Heaton-Ellis 5-11-3 ... B Powell –
12 06 TALKING IN RIDDLES 62 W Jenks 6-11-3 ... R Bellamy –
13 0 FLAME TOWER 20 Miss K Marks 4-10-12 ... Mr N Fehily (7) 15
14 23 MASTER TERN 44 J J O'Neill 4-10-12 ... L Cooper (7) 96
15 P0 MY LOST LOVE 21 A Hollingsworth 4-10-12 ... Gary Lyons –
16 005 TOM'S PRIZE 34 T Wall 4-10-12 ... X Aizpuru (3) 56
17 P POSTLIP GOLD 53 L Grassick 4-10-7 ... Mr J Grassick –
18 0 SATWA BOULEVARD 28 C Mann 4-10-7 ... J Magee –

9-11 The Fly, 5-1 Dream Of Nurmi, 7-1 Master Tern, Prince Of My Heart, 8-1 others.

2.00 CHURCH STRETTON SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (£1,669: 2m) (20)

1 0005 MUTANASSIB 18 M Pipe 6-12-0 ... A P McCoy –
2 -1R4 TREMENDISTO 20 (D,G,S) T Wall 9-11-13 ... X Aizpuru (3) 62
3 060- AMONG ISLANDS 342 (CD,S) G Charles-Jones 8-11-6 ... L Cummins (3) 75
4 PP-P VENDOON 46 (B,D,S) P Bowen 9-11-2 ... R Thornton –
5 P0-P TONGUE-IN-CHEEK 46 D Ffrench Davis 8-10-13 ... B Powell 40
6 10U5 IRISH SEA 20 (G) B Llewellyn 6-10-12 ... Miss E J Jones 75
7 066- BLAZE OF OAK 564 P Eccles 8-10-11 ... Miss V Roberts (7) –
8 P-P0 KING'S GOLD 23 Mrs L Richards 9-10-6 ... M Richards –
9 40-0 MILLING BROOK 70 (G) J Bradley 7-10-5 ... R Johnson 62
10 0603 EIRAWE 20 P Fanell 6-10-4 ... R Widger (5) 81
11 P02P BALLYKISSANN 13 D Ffrench Davis 4-10-4 ... J Magee –
12 0365 GALLOPING GUNS 5 (CD,F,G) B Llewellyn 7-10-4 ... O McPhail (5) 67
13 0000 BRITANNIA MILLS 42 (F,G,S) R J Price 8-10-2 ... – 95
14 0560 LORD FREDERICK 20 W Clay 7-10-0 ... G Tormey 63
15 0P-6 COASTGUARDS HERO 4F B Pearce 6-10-0 ... M Batchelor (5) –
16 R0/P AYDISUN 5 R Curtis 7-10-0 ... J Leech –
17 /P-0 NAGARA SOUND 90 B Preece 6-10-0 ... N Williamson 51
18 -500 INCHYDONEY BOY 103 Miss Z Davison 10-10-0 ... J Goldstein (3) 90
19 /0-0 TIMELY EXAMPLE 20 (B) P Bowen 8-10-0 ... A Maguire –
20 P0P6 BON LUCK 104 B Preece 7-10-0 ... Mr H Ephgrave (7) 47

11-2 Irish Sea, 6-1 Tremendisto, 7-1 Eirawe, Galloping Guns, Mutanassib, 10-1 others

2.30 PJ JOINTING NOVICES CHASE (£3,081: 3m) (14)

1 2212 NO MORE HASSLE 60 (BF,G,S) Mrs M Reveley 6-11-10 ... Mr A Dempsey (3) 91
2 1-01 STEPASIDEBOY 69 (D,G,S) R Curtis 9-11-10 ... J Leech 68
3 P-R0 COOLEST BY PHAR 20 Mrs P Ford 7-11-4 ... O McPhail (5) 52
4 43-P HOPE THATCH 20 A Hobbs 11-11-4 ... R Thornton –
5 -U24 KNOCK LEADER 32 (D,F,G,S) O Sherwood 7-11-4 ... J Osborne –
6 -050 KNOCK STAR 116 C Kellett 8-11-4 ... L Harvey –
7 P/PP LUKER BOY 64 J McConnochie 9-11-4 ... R Bellamy –
8 U3/P LYDEBROOK 11 M Mullineaux 10-11-4 ... S Wynne –
9 -R3U MR PERKUPP 9 (D,S) Lord Tyrone 8-11-4 ... R Widger (5) –
10 P22- NIRVANA PRINCE 342 (D,F,S) B Preece 10-11-4 ... A Maguire [illegible]
11 '506 RIMOUSKI 34 (D,G) B Cambidge 11-11-4 ... Gary Lyons –
12 21-0 THATS NO ANSWER 85 (D,F) V Darnall 6-11-4 ... J Supple –
13 4-42 THE CAMPDONIAN 238 O O'Neill 8-11-4 ... V Slattery 92
14 65-5 MOONLIGHTER 6 C Jackson 9-10-13 ... O Burrows (5) –

11-4 No More Hassle, Nirvana Prince, 7-2 Stepasideboy, 6-1 Knock Leader, 8-1 others.

3.00 HENLEY HALL GOLD CUP (MARES ONLY HANDICAP HURDLE) (£2,762: 2m) (8)

1 -314 TAKEAMEMO 23 (BF,D,S) O Sherwood 6-11-10 ... J Osborne 104
2 F3F: SEVERN GALE 625 (D,F,G) J Allen 9-10-9 ... X Aizpuru (3) –
3 4164 BRUSH WITH TIME 27 (D,S) Mrs S Williams 7-10-7 ... A P McCoy [illegible]
4 3332 GLACIAL MISSILE 7 P Bowen 6-10-5 ... R Johnson 92
5 0115 CADBURY CASTLE 62 (CD,G,S) G Charles-Jones 5-10-3 ... L Cummins (3) 102
6 4P-1 AVRO AVIAN 120 (S) J J O'Neill 5-10-3 ... L Cooper (7) 107
7 1-46 JANGLYNYVE 27 (D,F) Mrs M Jones 5-10-0 ... A Maguire 89
8 -035 HYDEMILLA 57 Mrs T Pilkington 9-10-0 ... V Slattery 59

9-4 Takeamemo, 4-1 Brush With Time, Glacial Missile, 5-1 Avro Avian, 6-1 others.

3.30 ATTWOOD MEMORIAL TROPHY HANDICAP CHASE (£3,778: 2m 4f) (9)

1 2351 SHINING LIGHT 40 (CD,F,G,S) D Nicholson 10-12-0 R Thornton 106
2 UP11 CARDINAL RULE 27 (D,G,S) Miss V Williams 10-11-8 ... N Williamson 127
3 -6F1 PEACE LORD 53 (D,G,S) Mrs D Haine 9-11-5 ... G Bradley 135
4 P14P SIERRA BAY 28 (D,F,S) O Sherwood 9-11-3 ... J Osborne 126
5 -060 DAMAS 56 (B,D,F,G,S) D McCain 8-11-3 ... A C Coyle (5) –
6 14-P MUSIC PLEASE 88 (G,S) B Preece 7-10-12 ... Mr H Ephgrave (7) 104
7 1585 COOLTEEN HERO 46 (F,G,S) R Alner 9-10-12 ... R Widger (5) 132
8 1U15 JEMARO 33 (CD,F,G,S) W Jenks 8-10-1 ... Gary Lyons 118
9 5343 BEYOND OUR REACH 6 (BF,F,G,S) R Hodges 11-10-0 ... R Johnson 131

2-1 Cardinal Rule, 7-2 Shining Light, 9-2 Peace Lord, 8-1 Sierra Bay, Coolteen Hero, Jemaro, 10-1 Beyond Our Reach, 25-1 others

4.00 KILVERTS HOTEL, HAY ON WYE MAIDEN HURDLE (Div II: £2,150: 2m) (18)

1 0-0 BARAN ITSU 23 K Burke 5-11-8 ... M Griffiths (5) –
2 00F0 DANKATE 62 J Bradley 5-11-8 ... R Johnson –
3 0 DOUBLE RUSH 8 T Keddy 7-11-6 ... D Leahy –
4 GROOM'S GORDON 236F Miss V Williams 5-11-8 N Williamson –
5 5 INTERDREAM 23 C Mann 5-11-8 ... J Magee 53
6 4 JENNY'S CHARMER 20 H Mobley 6-11-8 ... O McPhail (5) 57
7 0-5P KARZHANG 43 W Jenks 7-11-8 ... Gary Lyons –
8 0/0P KEEN BID 32 Mrs L Richards 8-11-8 ... M Richards –
9 04/P KURDISTAN 6 P Wegmann 9-11-8 ... D Matthews –
10 50-4 MELLORS 60 M Heaton-Ellis 6-11-8 ... B Powell 59
11 -050 BONNET 30 R Curtis 5-11-3 ... J Leech 20
12 PP6- LITTLE FLIMS 271 M Sheppard 6-11-3 ... R Thornton –
13 CORNICHE 81F C Kellett 4-10-12 ... L Harvey –
14 3P INNER LIGHT 16F (BF) B Pearce 4-10-12 ... M Batchelor (5) 97
15 255 SADDLERS' ROE 40 D Nicholson 4-10-12 ... A Maguire 90
16 MISS PASADENA 161F Mrs D Haine 4-10-7 ... G Tormey –
17 0PUP RUBY BEAR 4F W Brisbourne 4-10-7 ... M Brennan –
18 SPANISH EYES 133F J Spearing 4-10-7 ... S Wynne –

9-4 Groom's Gordon, 4-1 Saddlers' Roe, 6-1 Mellors, 7-1 Jenny's Charmer, 8-1 others

4.30 WEATHERBYS HUNTER CHASE RACE PLANNER HUNTERS CHASE (£1,543: 3m) (10)

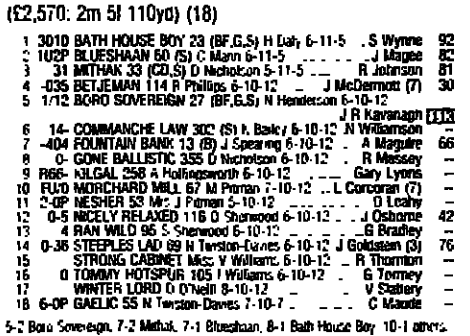
1 00-0 ARABIAN BOLD 212 (F,G,S) F Matthews 11-12-0 Mr P Flynn (7) –
2 286: CAPE COTTAGE 620 (CD,F,G,S) D Caro 15-12-0 ... Mr J M Pritchard (3) –
3 P33- CELTIC ABBEY 256 (D,F,G,S) Mrs C Hardinge 11-12-0 ... Mr D S Jones (3) 137
4 4/4- GEORGE ASHFORD 534 (D,F,G) P Johnson 9-12-0 ... Mr G Hanmer (5) –
5 2P6- HIGHWAY FIVE 274 (B,D,G,S) Lady S Brooke 11-12-0 ... Miss E James (7) 82
6 24P- KEANO 394 (D,S) J R Suthern 10-12-0 ... Mr A Sansome –
7 -43P NATIVE RAMBLER 111 (D,S) Mrs A Price 9-12-0 ... Mr S Blackwell (7) 66
8 420P PRIDEWOOD GOLDING 168 (D,F) E A Thomas 12-12-0 ... Mr P Costello (7) 63
9 12-5 TITUS ANDRONICUS 24P (D,F,G,S) Miss H Irving 12-12-0 ... Miss H Irving (7) –
10 5U6- TUG OF PEACE 440 (F,G,S) G Brown 12-12-0 Mr N Fehily (5) –

1-2 Celtic Abbey, 7-2 Titus Andronicus, 12-1 Keano, 14-1 Highway Five, 25-1 others.

5.00 WINSTANSTOW NOVICES HURDLE (£2,570: 2m 5f 110yd) (18)

1 3010 BATH HOUSE BOY 23 (BF,G,S) H Daly 6-11-5 ... S Wynne 92
2 1U2P BLUESHAAN 60 (S) C Mann 6-11-5 ... J Magee 82
3 31 MITHAK 33 (CD,S) D Nicholson 5-11-5 ... R Johnson 81
4 -035 BETJEMAN 114 R Phillips 6-10-12 ... J McDermott (7) 30
5 1/12 BORO SOVEREIGN 27 (BF,G,S) N Henderson 6-10-12 ... J R Kavanagh 113
6 14- COMMANCHE LAW 302 (S) K Bailey 6-10-12 ... N Williamson –
7 -404 FOUNTAIN BANK 13 (B) J Spearing 6-10-12 ... A Maguire 66
8 0- GONE BALLISTIC 355 D Nicholson 6-10-12 ... R Massey –
9 R66- KILGAL 258 A Hollingsworth 6-10-12 ... Gary Lyons –
10 FU/0 MORCHARD MILL 67 M Pitman 7-10-12 ... L Corcoran (7) –
11 2-0P NESHER 53 Mrs J Pitman 5-10-12 ... D Leahy –
12 0-5 NICELY RELAXED 116 O Sherwood 6-10-12 ... J Osborne 42
13 4 RAN WILD 96 S Sherwood 6-10-12 ... G Bradley –
14 0-36 STEEPLES LAD 69 N Twiston-Davies 6-10-12 J Goldstein (3) 76
15 STRONG CABINET Miss V Williams 6-10-12 ... R Thornton –
16 0 TOMMY HOTSPUR 105 I Williams 6-10-12 ... G Tormey –
17 WINTER LORD O O'Neill 8-10-12 ... V Slattery –
18 6-0P GAELIC 55 N Twiston-Davies 7-10-7 ... C Maude –

5-2 Boro Sovereign, 7-2 Mithak, 7-1 Blueshaan, 8-1 Bath House Boy, 10-1 others.



WOLVERHAMPTON

THUNDERER

2.10 Lucky Touch. 2.40 Mike's Double. 3.10 Lycian. 3.40 Intiaash. 4.10 Kierans Bridge. 4.40 Dispol Clan. 5.10 Risky Way.

GOING: STANDARD TOTE JACKPOT MEETING SIS

DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE

2.10 NENE STAKES (£2,211: 1m 4f) (8 runners)

101 32 LUCKY TOUCH 16 (BF) W Muir 6-9-12 ... Martin Dwyer 8
102 0-6 ORDER IN COURT 4 A Bailey 5-9-7 ... A Mackay 6
103 0-00 KAREFREE KATIE 23 J Given 4-9-4 ... A Culhane 5
104 050- ALEXANDER 116 C Thornton 3-8-2 ... J Fanning 1
105 5-54 PRINCE CONSORT 15 S C Williams 3-8-2 ... A Daly (3) 7
106 0-55 SUPERBOB 15 R Williams 3-8-2 ... G Bardwell 2
107 0-45 CRASH CALL LADY 5 C Allen 3-7-11 ... N Carlisle 3
108 33 NADISHA 4 (BF) W Haggas 3-7-11 ... J Quinn 4

6-4 Nadisha, 7-4 Lucky Touch, 7-1 Prince Consort, 12-1 Alexander, 16-1 others.

2.40 SEVERN STAKES (Div I: £1,679: 6f) (9)

201 1-30 MIKE'S DOUBLE 12 (V,CD,G) Mrs N Macauley 5-9-5 ... R Price 4
202 -005 PAGEBOY 18 (B,BF,CD,F) P Haslam 10-9-1 ... C Lowther 5
203 3-42 GARNOCK VALLEY 16 (D,F,G,S) J Berry 9-8-13 ... G Carter 9
204 00-0 DONA FILIPA 9 (D,F,S) Miss L Siddall 6-8-12 ... Dean McKeown 3
205 -263 ICE AGE 2 (B,D,F) R Williams 5-8-11 ... J Quinn 7
206 05-0 MIDSUMMER NIGHT 6 J Wainwright 4-8-8 ... J McAuley (7) 2
207 003- DIVIDE AND RULE 50 (F) R Hollinshead 5-8-7 ... P M Quinn (7) 8
208 3240 LITTLE IBNR 4 (V,CD,F) P Evans 8-8-5 ... J Tate 6
209 -062 OPENING RANGE 14 (C,F) N Berry 8-8-2 ... P Bradley (7) 1

5-2 Pageboy, 5-1 Garnock Valley, Little Ibnr, 6-1 Ice Age, Opening Range, 7-1 others.

3.10 TYNE HANDICAP [SHOWCASE RACE] (£6,302: 1m 100yd) (7)

301 4661 ITALIAN SYMPHONY 6 (V,D) P Evans 5-10-4 (6ex) ... C Cogan (7) 6
302 32-1 WEETMAN'S WEIGH 33 (C,F,G,S) R Hollinshead 6-10-0 ... J P Spencer (3) 5
303 20-1 PAS DE MEMOIRES 28 (C) K Burke 4-9-12 ... Dean McKeown 3
304 1114 TAKHLID 5 (C,D,F,G,S) D Chapman 9-9-2 (6ex) ... A Culhane 1
305 1-51 LYCIAN 13 (D,F,G) J Toller 4-8-8 ... S Whitworth 2
306 046- GIFT OF GOLD 63 (F,S) A Bailey 4-8-7 ... A Mackay 7
307 0321 ARC 7 (C) F Jordan 5-8-6 (6ex) ... R Perham 4

100-30 Lycian, Takhlid, Pas De Memoires, Weetman's Weigh, 7-1 Italian Symphony, 12-1 Arc, 14-1 Gift Of Gold.

3.40 SEVERN STAKES (Div II: £1,679: 6f) (8)

401 1020 INTIAASH 16 (CD,F,S) D Haydn Jones 7-9-4 ... P Fessey 4
402 0040 SELKIRK ROSE 4 (G) J Given 4-9-0 ... J Fanning 6
403 -005 MISS BANANAS 6 C Kellett 4-8-12 ... N Carlisle 1
404 50/0 LOCHON 14 (D,F,S) F Watson 8-8-11 ... Kimberley Hart (5) 2
405 0660 PRINCIPAL BOY 12 (G,S) Miss J Craze 6-8-9 ... O Pears 3
406 -500 CHALUZ 5 K Burke 5-8-7 ... D Sweeney 8
407 5-04 STRAT'S QUEST 16 (V,D,S) D Arbuthnot 5-8-6 S Whitworth 7
408 -050 SING FOR ME 9 (C) R Hollinshead 4-8-4 ... P M Quinn (7) 5

5-2 Selkirk Rose, 3-1 Intiaash, 5-1 Strat's Quest, 6-1 Miss Bananas, 7-1 Sing For Me, 8-1 Chaluz, 16-1 Principal Boy, 20-1 Lochon

4.10 THAMES HANDICAP (£3,606: 1m 4f) (8)

501 -105 FAILED TO HIT 7 (V,CD,F) N Littmoden 6-10-0 ... J Tate 6
502 500- KIERANS BRIDGE 133 (CD) A Jarvis 4-9-11 ... D Sweeney 7
503 2255 NOUKARI 13 (D) P Evans 6-9-10 ... T G McLaughlin 3
504 00-0 SHARAZAN 25 (B,D,G) O O'Neill 6-9-9 ... S Whitworth 8
505 -232 LYSANDROS 7 (D,G) N Chance 5-9-7 ... J D Smith (3) 1
506 100- TALIB 231 (D,S) P Mitchell 5-8-10 ... R Cochrane 4
507 0344 SLIP JIG 5 (B,D,S) K Burke 6-8-9 ... N Callan (5) 2
508 0-00 TUI 9 (D,F,S) P Bowen 4-7-10 ... L Charnock 5

6-4 Lysandros, 7-2 Noukari, 5-1 Failed To Hit, 10-1 Kierans Bridge, Talib, Slip Jig, 14-1 Sharazan, 16-1 Tui

4.40 WELLAND STAKES (3-Y-O: £1,822: 5f) (8)

601 05-0 LEGAL VENTURE 35 (D,F) N Littmoden 9-5 ... T G McLaughlin 3
602 41-0 DISPOL CLAN 14 (CD,S) D Murray Smith 9-0 ... R Winston (3) 1
603 -006 DOLLY DAY DREAM 7 (V,F) K Ivory 9-0 ... Martin Dwyer 4
604 03-3 LADYCAKE 35 (D,G) J Berry 9-0 ... P Bradley (7) 8
605 0-04 GOCHINOS 21 S C Williams 8-12 ... C Lowther 7
606 4321 NICHOLAS MISTRESS 1 P Evans 9-0 ... C Cogan (7) 5
607 000- PASHA 203 (B) Miss J Craze 8-7 ... J Fanning 2
608 34 SAND STORM 7 (B) B Meehan 8-7 ... G Hannon (7) 6

7-2 Ladycake, 4-1 Dispol Clan, 9-2 Nicholas Mistress, 6-1 Legal Venture, 7-1 Gochinos, 8-1 Dolly Day Dream, Pasha, 10-1 Sand Storm

5.10 AVON HANDICAP [TOTE TRIFECTA RACE] (3-Y-O: £2,659: 7f) (9)

1 4351 WEET U THERE 7 (CD) R Hollinshead 9-8 (6ex) ... A Culhane 7
2 406- PRIDEWAY 140 A Bailey 9-7 ... J Bosley (7) 8
3 30-2 JAMES DEE 5 A Jarvis 9-7 ... L Newton 1
4 0-33 TRINA'S PET 6 (B) J Balding 9-1 ... P Goode (7) 4
5 0-05 RISKY WAY 18 (D,G) B Rothwell 8-6 ... R Winston (3) 3
6 4-22 COMPLIMENTARY 15 (B) W Haggas 8-2 ... J Tate 9
7 3266 STATE WIND 12 (B) N Littmoden 8-2 ... J Quinn 6
8 -543 SHARP RHYTHM 8 (BF) M Johnston 7-10 ... P Fessey 5
9 0-05 DISTANT BELLE 20 N Littmoden 7-10 ... R Thomas (7) 2

5-2 James Dee, 3-1 Complimentary, 7-1 Weet U There, 8-1 Prideway, Trina's Pet, State Wind, 12-1 Sharp Rhythm, 14-1 others.

One new coach experiments with winning line-up while the other sticks to familiar formation

France draw confidence from status as world champions

By Matt Dickinson

THE SMELL of success lingers around the France camp as closely as autograph hunters surround Zinedine Zidane. It follows the players from their hotel to the training ground, and it will waft with them this evening as they journey past Wembley Way. *It is an air of utter* assuredness that comes from being champions of the world, and it has transformed good players into great ones.

With men like Desailly, Petit and Zidane advancing to their peak, it is not just the cockerels on their shirts that can afford to strut and crow. The supreme self-confidence of the French has been interpreted by some as arrogance. They flew into London only 48 *hours before* tonight's game, and the casualness of their manner can occasionally smack of conceit.

Do not be fooled. It is simply that the machine is ticking over so smoothly now that it needs only the slightest greasing. Asked what the coach told the team before games, one player replied: "He tells us we are world champions so enjoy it." And it really does appear that simple.

The task of *picking* the side *has* now fallen to Roger Lemerre, who took over after the World Cup triumph last summer. It might have seemed a genuine example of the "impossible job", given that his country had just scaled the Everest of international football, but Lemerre shows no signs of leading them down.

A *canny*, as *well as a charming*, operator, he remains unbeaten as an international manager. His background — something which the Football Association may care to note as it searches for a replacement for Glenn Hoddle — is far from prestigious and he was very much the safe option, just as Howard Wilkinson appears with England.

An international defender who won six caps, he was coach of the French military team until he was invited to join Aimé Jacquet's back-up staff last year, and he has no great stature in the world game. Nor is he a tactical genius, but he does not need to be as he builds on the strengths of an impenetrable defence and redoubtable midfield that made France so formidable in the World Cup.

A more adventurous soul by nature than Jacquet — and a more personable man as well — he is now tinkering with an attack which, if successful, could make France a side of terrifying potential. Leboeuf and Vieira, idols in the English game, are not even likely to start. Nicolas Anelka, the Arsenal forward, is *Lemerre's great hope for the future*, but he remains as hard to predict as his moods. "He might have been picked for the World Cup, but it was a little too early for him," Lemerre said. "If he keeps up the good work, he will be a great player."

Arsenal supporters who remain unconvinced by that argument should have the chance to judge further tonight. The 19-year-old is likely to start, and Lemerre may experi*ment by using his* pace in isolation up front. "Keown and Adams are good at man-to-man marking, but not so happy when there is a lot of running around them," Lemerre said, and he may try to confuse England's centre backs by giving them only their Arsenal clubmate to mark.

Such tactics would see Zidane and Djorkaeff, the Internazionale *forward who will play against* Manchester United in the European Cup quarter-final next month — in tandem just behind the striker. Deschamps, the captain, and Petit will bolster the midfield while Vieira must compete with Boghossian for one place.

The defence, with Blanc likely to be *selected ahead of Leboeuf, is the one* that played for most of the World Cup. Such a team would be one lacking in width, but it appears that the France coach has no intention of recalling David Ginola, the Tottenham Hotspur winger, who has been exiled from his national team since 1993.

"We all love David, but I am not obliged to pick him," Lemerre said. "He does not integrate into the team. David is 32 now, and we have many good young players. Look at Anelka. He is only 19, but he has won the league and cup with Arsenal and played in the Champions' League.

"David's talent is not in dispute. I used to watch Paris Saint-Germain just to see him. His ability is exceptional, but I also have to think about the team." And what a team when Vieira cannot even be guaranteed a place.

PAUL HACKETT



Zidane, the France midfield player, may be asked by Lemerre to play an attacking role behind Anelka

Wilkinson opts for proven defensive unit

By Rob Hughes

FOR the first time in five years, debate of the England team on the morning of a Wembley match can be done knowing, more or less, the starting XI. Howard Wilkinson, the caretaker coach, takes on France with a basic, very *British 4-4-2 formation. His* defence is from Arsenal, *the* best defensive unit in the FA Carling Premiership. And, more important than the fact that we know the *plan*, *the players* know it.

It was Terry Venables who began the poker game of concealing the England line-up to fox — or so he thought — the opposition. But it was Glenn Hoddle who took secrecy to perverse extremes, not even taking the players into his confidence. How on earth they could rehearse, only the trainer knew.

Wilkinson has stripped *team selection of its mythology*. Logic dictated that with three days to prepare a side against the world champions, he should build on the rock of the Arsenal defence that, *for a decade, has* been the most secure in the Premiership.

> 'He has stripped team selection of its mythology'

Seaman, Dixon, *Adams* and Keown are getting older, but they know one another, they are pragmatic and they have no fear of the big occasion. The argument that a foreigner should be hired to help England is thus, *at a stroke, absorbed: the* Arsenal rearguard was forged by George Graham, a Scot, and retained by Arsène Wenger, a Frenchman.

What Wilkinson cannot do is deploy the guards, the two midfield players who work like dervishes to keep to a *minimum the exposure of that* ageing Arsenal defence to the pace and running power of young attackers. That duo, Emmanuel Petit and Patrick Vieira, are French, and thus available to the opposition tonight.

"We know France are world champions," Tony Adams said. "I work with about 12 of them … and I'm not going back on Thursday defeated!" Adams is one of the senior England players with whom Wilkinson, wisely, seeks co-operation. When a player who has represented his country 56 times holds the opinion that Englishmen are more comfortable in a back line of four, it is fanciful to impose the German preference of 3-5-2.

Hoddle insisted upon it, but also kept Adams. Wilkinson starts with the players on side. However, one hopes that the Football Association go no further with the suggestion that players should be consulted on the appointment of a *permanent* coach — for that would be akin to asking pupils to nominate their own master.

Adams, once more, has *sensible words* on the subject. "The players have got to play," he said, "and the managers have got to manage. I've had 16 years as a pro, so if I think I've got things to say on the playing side, I'll offer it to the manager, whoever he is. But I'm not into the politics of it."

The responsibility for selecting the coach is for the FA, not the players. Their job is to win tonight, and they can because, *as worthy as* France *proved* last summer, the World Cup was on their ground, under their organisation. The France defence is mighty, possibly even better than that of Arsenal. Their midfield, organised by Deschamps, will be met by the Liverpool combination of Ince, fighting Petit's fire, and Redknapp, hoping to supply the flanks of Beckham and Anderton and the forward power of Shearer and, presumably, Owen.

Wilkinson wants to take his *third day on the training* ground to convince himself that the Shearer-Owen tandem knits together better than Fowler or Cole. That is not a coach holding back but a man using what little time he has to see who is sharpest on the day and to pick, if possible, a *winning* XI.

England need victory more than France; they need something to boost their confidence before the crucial European championship qualifying contest with Poland next month. And Wilkinson, unless he has been told something that we do not yet know, needs a win to ensure that this is not, for him, a one-night stand. Starting afresh in March would be a reckless gamble, so while there *is little for the future* in Wilkinson's selection, he clearly deems it more important to get the present right.

Until tomorrow, the best that he can deliver is a record that reads: Played one, won one, defeated the champions of the world.

History points to England facing stiff task

By Mel Webb

AS THOUGH they do not have enough on their hands, a legacy left to the present England team by their *predecessors will be abroad at* Wembley tonight. If they manage to defeat France, they will be bucking a powerful trend — only once in the past 23 years *have England* contrived a victory over the world champions at the time in a full international.

The last time they did so was also at Wembley, but it is necessary to go back to May, 1980 to find it. England beat Argentina 3-1, but the spirit of *triumphalism that was thick* in the air that night was as nothing compared with the national side's previous victory over the World Cup holders of the day.

It was March 12, 1975, England v West Germany before a crowd of 100,000 at *Wembley, and against all the* odds England won 2-0 to claim their first success over their old rivals since beating them 4-2 in the World Cup final of 1966.

The team, managed by Don Revie, were without Paul Madeley, Allan Clarke, Kevin *Beattie and David Johnson*, all of whom had played in an FA Cup replay between Leeds United and Ipswich Town the night before, but a virtuoso performance by one of English football's wayward geniuses more than compensated for their absence. Alan Hudson *was hugely gifted, but his was* a talent that went largely unfulfilled, both for club and country.

This, however, was his night of nights, a match in which he was the spark behind the flames as Bell and McDonald scored the all-*important goals*. Hudson had never produced such a performance for England before — and was destined never to again.

It was the first time England had beaten the world champions for 19 years — in May, 1956 they enjoyed a 3-1 victory over, again, West Germany.

DETAILS

1934: England 3 Italy 2
1939: Italy 2 England 2
1948: Italy 0 England 4
1949: England 2 Italy 0
1953: Uruguay 2 England 1
1954: England 2 Uruguay 4
1954: England 3 West Germany 1
1956: West Germany 1 England 3
1959: Brazil 2 England 0
1962: England 1 Brazil 3
1963: England 1 Brazil 1
1964: Brazil 5 England 1
1975: England 2 West Germany 0
1978: West Germany 2 England 1
1980: England 3 Argentina 1
1985: England 1 Italy 2
1995: England 1 Brazil 3
1997: England 0 Brazil 1

In between had come a sequence of four encounters against Brazil, in which their best result was a 1-1 draw at Wembley *in 1963 and the* worst a 5-1 hammering at the Maracana in Rio in May, 1964. England had Charlton, Greaves and Moore, but Brazil had Pelé and the maestro destroyed England with a performance to savour.

England held their own for *an hour but were a routed* rabble by the end. Two years later they were on the brink of becoming world champions themselves.

FOOTBALL

Keane not eager to play in Nigeria

FROM RUSSELL KEMPSON IN DUBLIN

THE Football Association of Ireland (FAI) confirmed yesterday that Robbie Keane, the Wolverhampton Wanderers striker, would play for Ireland in the world under-20 championship finals in Nigeria in April.

Colin Lee, the Wolves manager, and Mick McCarthy, the Ireland manager, have both said they do not want Keane to play in Nigeria and the 18-year-old is not impressed either. Only the FAI, which takes great pride in the success of its youth sides abroad, feels the need to expose him to what is likely to prove an arduous trip.

A delegation from Fifa, the sport's world governing body, visited Nigeria recently and concluded that although the facilities for the tournament were barely adequate, they would do. In a country in which little gets done at pace, and rarely without some form of discreet inducement, it was perhaps the best they could hope for. Small wonder that Lee, McCarthy and Keane share such grave doubts.

England have also qualified for the finals but Howard Wilkinson, in his role as technical director of the Football Association, has said that he will not call on players who are playing first-team football. As well as Keane, Ireland are likely to select Stephen McPhail, of Leeds United, Richard Dunne, of Everton, and Damien Duff, of Blackburn Rovers.

Keane and Duff play for Ireland in their international match against Paraguay at Lansdowne Road tonight. McCarthy has made two changes — Roy Keane for Alan McLoughlin in midfield and Ian Harte for Steve Staunton in defence — from the side that lost 1-0 against Yugoslavia in their European championship qualifying tie three months ago. Paraguay have not played since losing 1-0 to France in the second round of the World Cup last summer. It is the first game for Ever Almeida, their coach.

IRELAND (4-4-2) **S Given** (Newcastle United) — **D Irwin** (Manchester United), **K Cunningham** (Wimbledon), **G Breen** (Coventry City), **I Harte** (Leeds United) — **J McAteer** (Blackburn Rovers), **Roy Keane** (Manchester United), **M Kinsella** (Charlton Athletic), **D Duff** (Blackburn Rovers) — **N Quinn** (Sunderland), **Robbie Keane** (Wolverhampton Wanderers)

PARAGUAY (from) **R Tavarelli** (Olimpia) — **J Valdez** (Olimpia), **D Caniza** (Olimpia), **M Acosta** (Sportivo Luqueno), **I Rolon** (Sportivo Luqueno), **G Bernal** (Presidente Hayes), **C Paredes** (Sportivo Luqueno), **E Aguilera** (Cerra Cora), **J Franco** (Olimpia), **J Ortiz** (Atletico Colegiales), **T Gonzalez** (Cerra Cora), **M Caballero** (Olimpia), **R Roman** (Cerro Porteno)

Referee: G T Ormason (Iceland)

FOOTBALL IN BRIEF

■ MANCHESTER United aim to reward Alex Ferguson for his success at Old Trafford by making him the best-paid manager in Great Britain. The club has opened preliminary negotiations with Ferguson's advisers over a three-year deal worth £5 million. The deal would eclipse the £1 million-a-year that Ferguson earns at present at Old Trafford, including his bonuses, and will make the 57-year-old the highest-paid manager in the country.

■ Danny Murphy, the Liverpool midfield player, will return to Crewe Alexandra, his former club, on a month's loan this week. The 21-year-old has been unable to break into the first team at Anfield since his £1.5 million move from the Nationwide League first division club at the start of the 1997-98 season.

■ Bo Hansen, 26, the Denmark striker, has agreed to join Bolton Wanderers from Brondby for £1 million, pending a medical. He will be the fourth Dane on the books at Bolton.

■ Alessandro Melli, who scored for Parma in their 3-1 victory in the 1993 Cup Winners' Cup final, played in a trial match for Nottingham Forest against Scunthorpe United yesterday.

RUGBY UNION

Newcastle lose backing as Hall vision fades

BY DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

FIRST in, first out, the cynics will say after the news yesterday that Newcastle are to lose the backing of Cameron Hall Developments. The 1998 Premiership champions, part of Sir John Hall's dream of a sporting club to rival those of the Continent, will be left to stand on their own feet in a move which will have the employees of every club owned by one wealthy individual glancing over their shoulders.

Many in English rugby would claim that the sport would be better without the owners. This overlooks the massive investment — well over £30 million — made by those individuals since the game went professional in 1995. Sir John was the first to take advantage of the changed circumstances, by supporting Newcastle Gosforth.

But the sheer expense of the rugby operation and limited local support, together with the chaotic political landscape of the sport, have proved too much for Douglas Hall, Sir John's son, and Freddie Shepherd, the leading directors of Cameron Hall. Though they are prepared to sponsor the club to a degree, they will not continue to fund an organisation that has cost an estimated £9 million so far. The costs have included the move to Gateshead International Stadium, where five-figure crowds failed to materialise, forcing a return in November to Kingston Park.

There is, though, a significant difference between the struggling second-division club that was taken over in 1995, and the competitive first-division outfit that Hall's money and the acumen of Rob Andrew has created. While it has been clear this season that the purse-strings have been drawn far tighter, with the sale of Pat Lam and Richard Metcalfe to Northampton during the summer, together with the release of the charismatic Dean Ryan to Bristol, Newcastle are a going concern in playing terms.

Andrew, the director of rugby, has drawn together a potent combination of experience and young talent — English talent such as Jonathan Wilkinson and Ian Peel — that has carried Newcastle to the last eight of the Tetley's Bitter Cup and to sixth place in the first division of the Allied Dunbar Premiership.

"The club would like to stress it is business as usual, with the team looking forward to a long and successful future," Andrew, preparing for the game against Richmond tonight, said.

It is not entirely surprising that Hall Junior and Shepherd have cut the umbilical cord, in the light of Sir John's withdrawal for health reasons to Spain. Sir John has become disillusioned with the relationships between the leading clubs and the Rugby Football Union, and many close to the club believed at the start of this season that there was little support for rugby outside that of their principal patron.

The possibility exists of mergers with other rugby clubs in the area. West Hartlepool, the bottom club in the first division, is regularly touted as a natural partner, but even closer at hand is Northern, who play four divisions below Newcastle in Northern 1. Northern have had offers of up to £5 million for their ground, which would allow them to buy into the assets available at Kingston Park, where crowds have averaged just under 4,000 this season.

□ Richmond have been docked two league points after postponing their Premiership clash against Harlequins last November. The fixture on November 14 was rearranged because Reading Football Club needed the Madejski Stadium, which Richmond share, for an FA Cup tie. Richmond rejected Harlequins' requests to use Richmond's former Athletic Ground home in London, or to switch the game.


Sir John: disillusioned

RUGBY LEAGUE

Monie relies on Reber

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

MARK REBER, the former North Sydney hooker, arrived from Australia yesterday and learnt that he will make his Wigan Warriors debut in the Silk Cut Challenge Cup fourth-round tie at Headingley on Sunday.

After a relatively injury-free ride to the JJB Super League title last year, Wigan are already paying for paring their squad this season to comply with salary regulations. Tony Smith, their only recognised scrum half, is out, for up to six weeks, with a hairline ankle fracture, which means Reber taking over or Jason Robinson switching from the wing.

Wigan delayed their preparations for the Leeds match until the arrival of Reber, whose last appearance was in the Australian Grand Final series last September. John Monie, the coach, who is undecided whether to start Reber at scrum half, hooker, or to bring him off the bench, said: "With first-grade experience in Sydney, he should be able to pick up what we do fairly quickly."

Eight signings, including five Australians — Paul Carige, Garen Casey, Bobby Thompson, Hudson Smith and Darren Brown — will make their debuts for Salford Reds on Saturday in the re-run of last year's semi-final against Sheffield Eagles. Only David Hulme, Gary Broadbent, Steve Blakeley and Martin Crompton survive from the starting side beaten 22-18 then.

Program Planning Professionals, the London-based management consultancy, is to sponsor the University match for three years. Russell Smith, the 1998 referee of the year, will officiate when Cambridge, who have won five of the last six matches, meet Oxford at the Athletic Ground, Richmond, for a fourth year, on March 9.

ALASTAIR GRANT

Henman keeps his eye on the ball on the way to his straight-sets success yesterday

Henman puts black memory behind him

FROM ALIX RAMSAY IN DUBAI

PATIENCE, it is said, is a virtue and it is one that Tim Henman has tried hard to learn. Having run into a German wall every time that he had appeared at the Dubai Open — the obstacle coming first in the shape of Martin Sinner and then, the following year, Boris Becker — Henman reached the promised land yesterday, claiming, at last, a place in the second round. He did it with a 6-0, 6-4 win over Wayne Black that was a lot harder than it looked.

After making his way into the world's top ten and reclaiming his domestic No 1 slot, Henman has endeavoured to distance himself from the forlorn figure of a year ago. Losses this year are no more than minor blips that are best forgotten quickly.

"Some days, you play badly and the best thing to do is put those behind you," he said, brushing aside his performance at the Australian Open, "but when you have a long stretch of losses, you have to think about it. Twelve months ago, there was a lot of analysis because things just weren't happening for me."

During that spell, Henman put in an appalling performance to lose to Black in the first round at Indian Wells. He admitted then that he had no plan and no idea what he was doing. This time, he was determined to do better.

"Obviously, there was a big difference today from then," he said. "This period last year was a big struggle and it doesn't matter how much I say I have learnt from that, winning is the proof."

Even so, Henman did not come here brimming with confidence. Knowing that this period of the year is his chance to improve his ranking — with almost no ranking points to defend, the only way is up — simply spurs him on rather than relaxes him and he wanted to improve his record at this event.

He did not make it easy for himself. His first service deserted him for much of the first set and, despite the 6-0 scoreline, he had to do a great deal of running around to achieve it.

By the second set, Black was matching Henman blow for blow, yet, come the big points, it was the No 3 seed who knew what to do next. The break finally came in the ninth game and from there it was plain sailing.

The next name on Henman's list is Jonas Bjorkman, who solved his German problem by beating Becker 6-3, 6-4. Not even 5,000 eager supporters could make Becker's legs move any faster as Bjorkman made the grand old man of tennis look his age.

LINKS

WEBSITE:
www.atptour.com
www.dubaitennisopen.com

TENNIS:
Eurosport, 3.30 (live)

SPORT IN BRIEF

Coulthard brushes hopes of Hill aside

■ **MOTOR RACING:** David Coulthard has dismissed Damon Hill's claim that he can figure in the battle for the world drivers' championship this season in his Jordan. Coulthard, continuing his preparations in the new McLaren in Barcelona yesterday, said: "From a British point of view, it would be great if Damon and Jordan were right up there, but I think a few more teams have a better chance.

"Testing can be misleading. The only time we will find out how quick the cars are will be in qualifying for the first race in Melbourne. With the cars all running on the same tyres this season, I expect the grid to be a little bit closer."

■ **ICE HOCKEY:** Keith Milhench, the owner of the Kingston Hawks, has relinquished immediate control of the financially stricken club after pressure from the National League and players' union. Milhench was attempting to raise £145,000 by floating the club on the OFEX unregulated stock market, but his plans appear to be in disarray. Adrian Florence, the former manager, who leads a consortium bidding to keep the ten-year-old club in existence, will be in control of the team until the end of the season.

■ **CYCLING:** Colin Sturgess yesterday pulled out of the 12-day Tour of Langkawi in Malaysia before the start of the seventh stage because of a severe stomach upset (Peter Bryan writes). Until then he had been the best-placed British rider overall, 4min 27sec down on Frank McCormack, of the United States, the race leader.

■ **TENNIS:** Andre Agassi, the No 2 seed, scored a swift 6-2, 6-1 victory over Todd Woodbridge, the Australian doubles specialist, in the first round of the Sybase Open in San Jose, California, yesterday. Michael Chang, the No 4 seed, also advanced easily with a 6-2, 6-2 triumph over Fernando Meligeni, of Brazil.

■ **BOXING:** Frank Maloney, the promoter and manager, has signed Brian Magee and David Lowry, the Ulster boxers, who both competed at the Commonwealth Games in Kuala Lumpur in September last year, to his professional stable. Magee, a middleweight, was a bronze medal-winner in Malaysia.

FOR THE RECORD

CRICKET

International matches

Zimbabwe A v England A

BULAWAYO (first day of five, England A won toss). England A have scored 256 runs for four wickets against Zimbabwe A

ENGLAND A: First Innings

D L Maddy c Bignaut b A R Whittall	64
*M P Vaughan c A R Whittall b Strang	0
M B Loye not out	122
R W T Key c Madondo b Strang	23
A Flintoff b A R Whittall	2
V S Solanki not out	36
Extras (lb 4, nb 5)	9
Total (4 wkts)	256

G P Swann, † C M W Read, D A Cosker, J D Lewry and S J Harmison to bat

FALL OF WICKETS 1-12, 2-134, 3-178, 4-189

BOWLING Bignaut 14-3-41-0; Strang 27-9-71-2; G J Whittall 9-3-25-0; A R Whittall 25-4-56-2; Huckle 21-7-53-0; Viljoen 3-0-6-0

ZIMBABWE A: T R Gripper, C B Wishart, T N Madondo, G J Whittall, S V Carlisle, D P Viljoen, † C P Gurr, *A R Whittall, B C Strang, A M Bignaut, A G Huckle

Umpires: G R Evans and E J Gilmour

New Zealand Under-19 v England Under-19

WELLINGTON (second day of four). New Zealand Under-19, with all second-innings wickets in hand, are 60 runs behind England Under-19

NEW ZEALAND UNDER-19: First Innings 110 (J R Tucker 5-35)

Second Innings

M Papps not out	26
T McIntosh not out	29
Total (no wkt)	55

BOWLING: Bulbeck 12-5-14-0; Whiley 10-4-13-0; Haywood 3-1-4-0; Tucker 2-0-14-0; Dawson 7-3-5-0; Bridge 6-4-5-0.

ENGLAND UNDER-19: First Innings

*M A Gough c McGlashan b Franklin	116
I N Flanagan b Shaw	10
I R Bell c Martin b Shaw	2
M A Carberry c Papps b Shaw	5
G R Haywood lbw b Shaw	3
R K J Dawson b Martin	45
M P L Bulbeck c and b Shaw	7
J R Tucker lbw b Martin	5
† M A Wallace lbw b Martin	0
G R Bridge not out	2
M J A Whiley c Englefield b Franklin	0
Extras (b 3, lb 5, nb 24)	32
Total	225

FALL OF WICKETS 1-19, 2-33, 3-43, 4-47, 5-189, 6-206, 7-223, 8-223, 9-223.

BOWLING. Shaw 24-5-59-5; Hammond 26-7-54-0; Hendry 8-2-15-0; Martin 27-12-42-3; Franklin 19-3-47-2

Umpires: R Garland and D Alexander

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Charlotte 94 Miami 91; Cleveland 89 Indiana 95; Detroit 106 Washington 103; Orlando 107 Boston 90; San Antonio 75 Los Angeles Lakers 80; Houston 99 Denver 80; Vancouver 76 Portland 95

CRESTA RUN

ST MORITZ: Seniors Cup: 1, D Samuels (GB) 2min 8.35sec; 2, C Emson (GB) 2:11.20; 3, U Burgerstein (Switz) 2:12.02; 4, C Christen (Switz) 2:12.49; 5, J Ellis (GB) 2:12.51; 6, P Berchtold (Switz) 2:12.56

CYCLING

TOUR OF LANGKAWI: Seventh stage (Kota Tinggi to Pekan, 232km): 1, E Degano (It) 6hr 29min 38sec; 2, L Cei (It); 3, F Rodriguez (US) both at same time. **British placings:** 37, S Dangerfield; 40, M Bottrill; 47, J Winn all same time. **Leading overall positions:** 1, S McCormack (US) 28hr 12min 4sec; 2, A Tafi (It) at 10sec; 3, K Lowbser (SA) 32. **British placing:** 51, Winn 11min 58sec.

DARTS

DELDEN: Dutch Open: Semi-finals: T Hankey (Eng) bt R Barneveld (Hol) 2-1; R Widdows (Eng) bt M King (Eng) 2-0. **Final:** Hankey bt Widdows 4-2

FOOTBALL

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: Third division: Postponed: Darlington v Carlisle.
SCOTTISH LEAGUE: Third division: Postponed: Albion v Cowdenbeath

Monday's late results

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: Charlton 2 Wimbledon 0
FA UMBRO TROPHY: Fourth-round replays: St Albans 2 Ashton Utd 1; Stevenage 0 Cheltenham 1 (abandoned at half-time, snow)

DR MARTENS LEAGUE: Southern division: Dartford 0 Newport IoW 2
AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Arsenal 0 Brighton 0; Fulham 3 Luton 2
PONTIN'S LEAGUE: Premier division: Preston 0 Manchester United 1
ENDSLEIGH INSURANCE MIDLAND CHALLENGE CUP: Third round: Nuneaton 1 Ilkeston 0.
MINERVA SPARTAN SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE: Premier division: Ruislip Manor 0 Berkhamsted 1

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Florida 4 St Louis 5; Calgary 2 Edmonton 1; Phoenix 0 San Jose 3

SAILING

CLIPPER ROUND-THE-WORLD RACE: Leg 3a (Hawaii to Yokohama, with miles to finish): 1, Ariel (A Thomson) 1,941; 2, Antiope (K Harris) 2,000; 3, Chrysolite (T Hedges) 2,005; 4, Thermopylae (M Tod) 2,048; 5, Senca (R Dean) 2,066; 6, Mermerus (B Sollars) 2,163

SNOOKER

WEMBLEY: Benson and Hedges Masters: Second round: K Doherty (Ire) bt S Davis (Eng) 6-4; J Higgins (Scot) bt A Robidoux (Can) 6-1

TENNIS

DUBAI OPEN: First round: F Mantilla (Sp) bt F Vicente (Sp) 7-6, 6-4; T Henman (GB) bt W Black (Zim) 6-0, 6-4; T Muster (Austria) bt S Huet (Fr) 6-4, 6-2; F Clavet (Sp) bt W Ferreira (SA) 3-6, 6-2, 7-6; N Kiefer (Ger) bt N Escudé (Fr) 6-3, 6-2; K Kucera (Slovakia) bt A Berasategui (Sp) 6-0, 6-2.
ST PETERSBURG OPEN: First round: I Kornienko (Russ) bt L Tieleman (It) 6-3, 3-1, ret; M Tillstrom (Swe) bt A Cherkasov (Russ) 3-6, 6-4, 6-4; M-K Goellner (Ger) bt D Sanguinetti (It) 6-2, 7-6; D Hrbaty (Slovakia) bt A Voinea (Rom) 6-3, 3-6, 6-3; S Grosjean (Fr) bt M Damm (Cz) 6-7, 7-6, 6-3; M Gustafsson (Swe) bt I Pantcin (Russ) 6-1, 3-6, 7-5; D Prinosil (Ger) bt G Pozzi (It) 6-4, 3-6, 6-3; M Safin (Russ) bt G Canas (Arg) 6-2, 6-3; J Siemerink (Holl) bt M Kohlman (Ger) 6-3, 6-4.
SAN JOSE, California: Sybase Open: First round: S Lareau (Can) bt M Zabaleta (Arg) 6-2, 6-1; P Goldstein (US) bt C Costa (Sp) 4-6, 6-4, 6-4; F Squillari (Arg) bt A Portas (Sp) 6-1, 3-6, 6-2; A Agassi (US) bt T Woodbridge (Aus) 6-2, 6-1; M Chang (US) bt F Meligeni (Br) 6-3, 6-2; C Ruud (Nor) bt M Puerta (Arg) 6-2, 4-6, 6-3; C Woodruff (US) bt R Agenor (Haiti) 2-6, 6-2, 6-3.
PROSTEJOV, Czech Republic: Nokia Cup: First round: A Cocheteux (Fr) bt N Tauziat (Fr) 6-0, 7-6; N Dechy (Fr) bt M Pastikova (Cz) 6-1, 6-3; A Fusai (Fr) bt O Barabanschikova (Bela) 4-6, 6-3, 6-3; L Nemeckova (Cz) bt M Sánchez Lorenzo (Sp) 6-0, 7-5; D Chladkova (Cz) bt E Wagner (Ger) 6-2, 6-0; D van Roost (Bel) bt A Barna (Ger) 6-4, 7-5; S Farina (It) bt A Carlsson (Swe) 6-2, 6-3; B Rittner (Ger) bt K Habsudova (Slovakia) 7-6, 5-7, 6-3.
BIRMINGHAM: LTA women's tournament: First round: L Ahl (Devon) bt L Reilly (Scot) 6-1, 6-3; K de Weille (Holl) bt M Zdenovcova (Cz) 6-3, 6-2; N Egorova (Russ) bt M Escobar (Sp) 7-5, 6-2; J Choudhury (Cambs) bt M Koutstaal (Holl) 6-3, 6-7, 6-1; M Mihalache (Rom) bt H Matthews (Berks) 6-4, 6-1; S Karpenschif (Fr) bt E Molnar (Hun) 6-2, 6-1; A Bachmann (Ger) bt J Ozman (Sussex) 6-1, 2-6, 6-1; L Latimer (Warwicks) bt M Lamarre (Fr) 6-4, 6-3

TODAY'S FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated

International matches

England v France (at Wembley, 8.0)
Ireland v Paraguay (at Lansdowne Road)

Tennent's Scottish Cup

Third-round replay

Ross County v Clydebank

DR MARTENS LEAGUE: Southern division: Brackley Town v Baldock.
UNIBOND LEAGUE: Challenge Cup: Second-round replay: Hucknall Town v Emley. **Third-round replay:** Gainsborough v Blyth Spartans.
ISTHMIAN LEAGUE CUP: Second round: Chesham v Dagenham and Redbridge.
RYMAN LEAGUE: Third division: Tring v Aveley. **Vandanel Trophy: Second round:** Harlow v Edgware
THE TIMES FA YOUTH CUP: Fourth round: Chelsea v Newcastle (7.0), Nottingham Forest v Sunderland (7.0).
AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Barnet v Wycombe (2.0); Charlton v Cambridge (2.0), Colchester v Swindon (3.0), Ipswich v Gillingham (7.0), Southampton v Oxford, Brighton v Millwall (at Millwall, 2.0); Wimbledon v Watford
PONTIN'S LEAGUE: First division: Bolton v Sheffield Wednesday (7.0), Manchester City v Port Vale (7.0), Tranmere v Wolverhampton (7.15). **Second division:** Huddersfield v Scarborough (7.0), Lincoln v York (at Lincoln Utd, 7.0). **Third division:** Chester v Rochdale (2.0), Chesterfield v Scunthorpe (2.0), Hull v Wigan (2.0). **League Cup: Group five:** Oldham v Stoke (7.0). **Group six:** Notts County v Bradford (at Farsley Celtic, 2.0)
SCHWEPPES ESSEX SENIOR LEAGUE: Premier division: Bowers United v Ilford, Eton Manor v Sawbridgeworth
COMPLETE MUSIC HELLENIC LEAGUE: Premier division: North Leigh v Bicester, Swindon Supermarine v Cirencester Academy
MINERVA SPARTAN SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE: Challenge Trophy: Third round: Ruislip Manor v Hanwell Town
WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: Premier division: Cray v Canterbury
BANKS'S BREWERY LEAGUE: Premier division: Lye Town v Star, Wolverhampton v Tipton Town.
JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Ipswich v Sudbury Town.
UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: First division: Pagham v East Preston
NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: Premier division: Hallam v Eccleshill

RUGBY UNION

Allied Dunbar Premiership

First division

Newcastle v Richmond (7.30)

Welsh League

Premier division

Neath v Llanelli (7.15)

CLUB MATCHES: Cambridge University v Army (7.15), Cornwall v Royal Navy (at Launceston, 7.0)

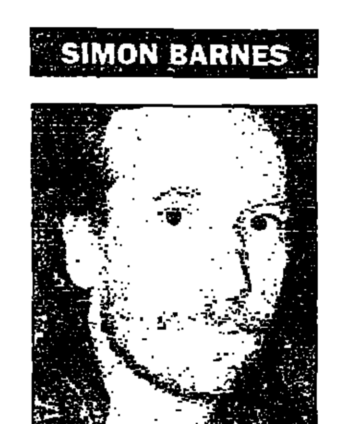
OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Uni-ball Trophy: Semi-finals, first leg: Derby Storm v Leicester Riders (8.0), Sheffield Sharks v Manchester Giants (at Ponds Forge ISC, 7.45)
ICE HOCKEY: Sekonda Superleague: Manchester Storm v Nottingham Panthers (7.0)

صورة عن الاصل

Mind games take their toll

SIMON BARNES



Midweek View

There are plenty of stories about the wicked witch that turns her victims into stone. It seemed that Stephen Hendry had been turned into wood. To be fair — perhaps the word I am looking for is unfair — he starts closer than most of us.

But by the time he had been beaten by Tony Drago, he looked even more like a Stan Laurel puppet than ever before, and that takes a bit of doing. Mournful-looking even in moments of effortless triumph, in abject defeat he was a neatly-chiselled version of the tragic muse.

If you looked a trifle deeper into the business at the Benson and Hedges Masters championship at Wembley, you found a fellow called Steve Davis being beaten by Ken Doherty. Weird. With snooker, and with results like these, we have had to rethink all we thought we knew about sport.

Perhaps that has been the most instructive facet about the snooker boom of the Eighties, and its continued popularity at sub-boom level: snooker has given us a new set of rules about sport. For how could Hendry possibly lose? He beat Drago 12 times on the trot; he has won the present competition six times; he once put together 23 successive victories at the Masters.

So perhaps the great champion had an off day. He has achieved so much, he can be excused an aberration. But no. Drago has beaten him in their past three meetings. So perhaps Drago has improved. But the fact of the matter is that Hendry — unbeatable Hendry — has not won a title on British soil since 1997. And as for Davis, his own unbeatable days are distant history.

When a great footballer begins to fail, we nod wisely and say: poor fellow, his legs have gone. But there is nothing on earth the matter with the legs of Steve and Stephen. These four items are eminently capable of supporting their two players for a stroll around the baize. They can even take their masters through the tricky shots when they are standing on only one.

No. Poor fellows, it is their brains that have gone. That is the heart of the matter. When a tennis champion reaches the end, we tend to say that the spirit and the appetite is still there, but his legs have gone and his hand-eye co-ordination has let him down. We say much the same thing for all *the once-greats in all the run*ning-about sports. But snooker seems to be telling us that we are wrong in doing so. In theory, a standing-still sport should allow a player to go on and on for ever and ever. Champion golfers and snooker players should be able to carry on into their dotage: and so they do. *They just stop winning.*

It is as if the muscles of greatness have atrophied. The hamstring of confidence is torn. The cruciate ligament of self-certainty has been irreparably damaged. And no amount of keyhole surgery can fix it. They will play again, sure, but that extra half-yard of belief has gone. Gone for good.

In *The Times* yesterday, Phil Yates wrote of Hendry: "The problem is simple enough to diagnose: a chronic shortage of confidence." The same thing is true of Davis. But how much confidence does a chap need? Each has won the world championship six times. Davis managed it three times in a row. Hendry an extraordinary five times in row.

Of course, Fred Davis did manage a long-term hegemony over the world championship, winning it every time it was held between 1927 and 1946: but that was another era. It is a fact of life that modern champions cannot sustain their period of dominance for more than a few years.

Which leaves us looking at another unexpected face of the *champion. If their brains have* gone, what are they still doing there? Why don't they retire with grace and take their cues back home? The answer, certainly in Steve Davis's case, is that they are in thrall to the game. Davis is one of sport's slaves of the lamp. The play of the balls has him forever in its sway, *the striving and the* beauty of it all keep him a prisoner of sport.

"It was total annihilation," Davis said after a defeat last year. "But it was wonderful to watch." And Davis won the Masters last year, briefly tasting his former glories, before falling back into his now accus*tomed role of one of the attend*ant lords of snooker.

Myth one: sporting greatness is largely a matter of physical fitness. Myth two: modern sporting people are only in it for the money.

Truth: with a champion, it is not the legs that go, but the brain. And what they have left *is love. Love of the game, love* of the struggle. Like the hapless victims turned into stone or wood, they are bewitched.



ALLSPORT UK/ALLSPORT

Fading star: The golden years are over for Hendry as he contemplates another defeat

'Why don't snooker players retire with grace and take their cues back home?'

Higgins left well out of pocket

By Phil Yates

JOHN HIGGINS, who has yet to experience the exhilaration of compiling a maximum break in competition, almost recorded his first during a 6-1 victory over Alain Robidoux in the Benson & Hedges Masters at Wembley Conference Centre yesterday.

The world champion and world No 1 was not extended en route to his fifth win over the wholly-ineffective Robidoux in six meetings. It was a one-sided affair, redeemed only by the excitement generated when Higgins put together a run of 112 in the fourth frame.

Higgins, attempting to join Steve Davis and Stephen Hendry as the only player to simultaneously hold the world, United Kingdom and Masters titles, potted 14 reds with blacks to move within striking distance of a lucrative 147.

Unfortunately, Higgins did not achieve the desired angle for position on the final red which lay awkwardly between the yellow spot and a middle pocket. As a result he was forced to take it on from distance and the red caught the jaws of a balk pocket.

With the colours ideally situated, Higgins would surely have claimed the highest-break award of £18,000 in addition to the keys to a Honda car valued at £80,000. *Kirk Stevens thus remains the* only competitor to compile a maximum in the 25-year history of the event.

SKIING

Austrians sustain dominance

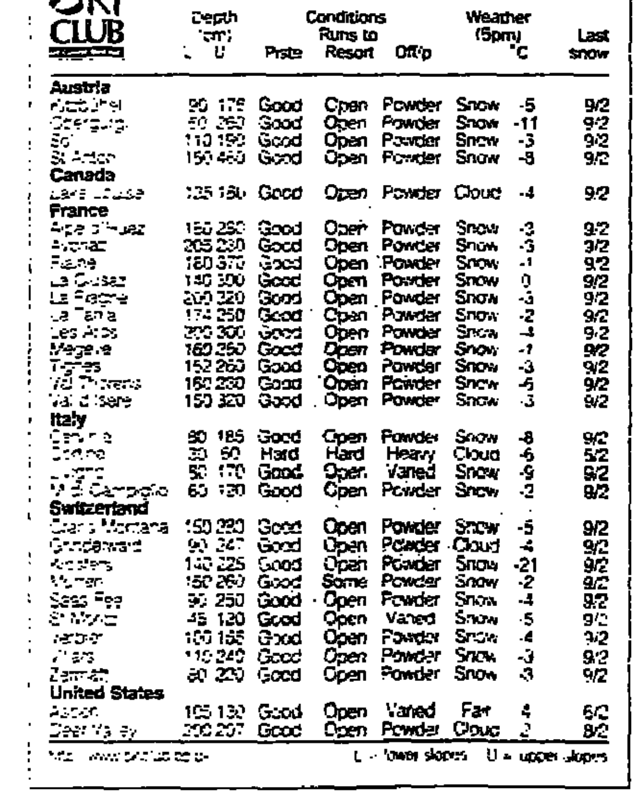
From Graham Duffill in Vail, Colorado

WHEN Pete Seibert founded Vail in 1961, he modelled the town on an Austrian village and invited Austrians to come and teach the skiing. Nearly 30 years later, Austria is still dominating Vail, taking ten of the 15 medals awarded in the first week of the world championships.

The Austria team here is a small army. A million-pound budget, encompassing 90 skiers and 54 coaches, means that they can train wherever and whenever they wish. This summer they bought the exclusive rights to the Zermatt glacier in Switzerland for six weeks for £20,000, sub-letting training rights to their Swiss rivals between 5.30am and 8am.

The Austria team know that they are simply enjoying a streak of good form while their rivals have hit a trough and, as one of their trainers said: "It's getting embarrassing already." The balance should change a little this week as the championships move away from the speed events into the technical races.

The women's giant slalom tomorrow, in particular, may increase Austria's embarrassment, since their leading women, Alexandra Meissnitzer and Anita Wachter, have been dominant this season, winning every race before the world championships. But Deborah Compagnoni, the Olympic gold medal-winner from Italy, has been training hard in nearby Aspen and will be competitive after innumerable second places this year.



SNOW REPORTS

SKI CLUB

	Depth (cm) L	U	Conditions Piste	Runs to Resort	Off/p	Weather (5pm)	°C	Last snow
Austria								
Kitzbühel	90	175	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	-5	9/2
Obergurgl	50	260	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	-11	9/2
Söll	110	190	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	-3	9/2
St Anton	150	460	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	-8	9/2
Canada								
Lake Louise	125	180	Good	Open	Powder	Cloud	-4	9/2
France								
Alpe d'Huez	150	260	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	-3	9/2
Avoriaz	205	230	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	-3	3/2
Flaine	180	370	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	-1	9/2
La Clusaz	140	300	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	0	9/2
La Plagne	200	320	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	-3	9/2
La Tania	174	250	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	-2	9/2
Les Arcs	200	300	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	-4	9/2
Megeve	160	250	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	-1	9/2
Tignes	152	260	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	-3	9/2
Val Thorens	160	230	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	-5	9/2
Val d'Isere	150	320	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	-3	9/2
Italy								
Cervinia	90	185	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	-8	9/2
Cortina	30	60	Hard	Hard	Heavy	Cloud	-6	5/2
Livigno	50	170	Good	Open	Varied	Snow	-9	9/2
M di Campiglio	65	130	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	-2	8/2
Switzerland								
Crans Montana	150	220	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	-5	9/2
Grindelwald	90	247	Good	Open	Powder	Cloud	-4	9/2
Klosters	140	225	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	-21	9/2
Murren	150	260	Good	Some	Powder	Snow	-2	9/2
Saas Fee	90	250	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	-4	9/2
St Moritz	45	120	Good	Open	Varied	Snow	-5	9/2
Verbier	100	155	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	-4	9/2
Villars	110	240	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	-3	9/2
Zermatt	80	220	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	-3	9/2
United States								
Aspen	105	130	Good	Open	Varied	Fair	4	6/2
[illegible]	200	257	Good	Open	Powder	Cloud	2	8/2

L — lower slopes U — upper slopes

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 34

OCOTILLO
(a) A spiny shrub, Fouquiera splendens, of the family Fouquieraceae, native to the south-western United States and Mexico, and bearing narrow, inconspicuous leaves and panicles of red flowers. The Spanish diminutive of the Nahuatl ocotl a torch.

SABIR
(b) A French-based pidgin language used in parts of North Africa. From sabir "to know" in the language invented by Molière for a song in *Le bourgeois gentilhomme* (1670), probably an adaptation of the Spanish saber to know.

RAZET
(c) Bloodless bullfighting. In southern France, a contest in which teams of combatants compete to snatch a rosette from between the bull's horns. The Provençal word is raset.

RIRORIRO
(b) The New Zealand grey warbler, Gerygone igata, a small wren-like bird.

SOLUTION TO WINNING MOVE
1...Rf8! 2 axb6 Qxf2+ 3 Rxf2 Rb1+ 4 Rf1 Rfxf1 checkmate.

TELEVISION CHOICE

A detective in the dock

Mersey Blues: A Fair Cop?
BBC2, 9.00pm

This final chapter is devoted entirely to the arrest and conviction of Detective Chief Inspector Elmore "Ellie" Davies, the rotund thief-taker and unapologetic consumer of junk food ("If you're going to go off the rails you might as well do it properly") whose presence *has dominated the five-part series*. Have regular viewers spotted any flickers of self-doubt in the man? Any body language which might suggest he is not at peace with himself, let alone the corporate policies of new-style policing which he appears to loathe? Davies has taken a £10,000 bribe to undermine the prosecution of a man accused of attempted murder.

Blood on the Carpet: Guns 'n' Posies
BBC2, 9.50pm

Who would have thought that Bev Wood, a modest, middle-aged lady running a traditional flower shop in Yorkshire, could have scythed down the entire board of Interflora? With a little help from another florist, Londoner Rose-Marie Watkins, and a lot of back-up from the family — some 2,600 members of the old Interflora, apparently a traditional, paternalistic firm — they came together at an extraordinary general meeting to voice their criticisms of the new chief executive, Doug McGrath, and his 13-strong management team. McGrath *had been brought in "to be a bastard"* and streamline Interflora in the face of growing competition from supermarkets. It was quite a meeting — and the ladies, with their *specially hired lawyer and a powerful (male)* backer from Bristol (and thereby hangs a twist in the tale) challenged the board and won, reducing all 13 of them to compost. Flower power or what?

Inside Story: Heartbreak
BBC1, times vary

This catalogue of personal tragedies has been assembled ostensibly for Valentine's Day but its whingers and weepers are the very reverse of hearts and flowers romantics. The trouble is, they all seem to have started out romantically enough — but didn't look much beyond the Valentine hype. Thus, when love turned sour, John walked out on Val to follow up his dream girl on the Internet — and married her in Boston, Massachusetts. Neil, a traveller, "took away the best ten years" of Dawn's life and left her and their three children for his gay lover, Paul. Karen seduced her sister's husband and so it rages on, with much *shouting and spilling* of tears along the way. A radio phone-in with Anna Raeburn helps to tighten this scramble of woes, and surprisingly cheerful end captions bring the stories of the heartbreakers up to date.







Kevin (left) and Rob flank Geoff Small, the producer, in *Black and White* (BBC1)

Black & White
BBC1, times vary

Cast your mind back ten years to an experiment in Bristol where two reporters — one black, one white — took hidden cameras through the rounds of hotels to see if they met any racial discrimination. They did — plenty. But isn't there reason to believe now, in spite of the Stephen Lawrence and other cases, that we really do live in an increasingly homogenous mixed-race society? For this new series, Rob (white), an engineer, and Kevin (black), "in the music business", meet for the first time to take their hidden cameras and microphones to Leeds — "a typical multiracial city". Here they will spend five months testing the job market, public services and, first off, accommodation. Since there is an element of suspense here *I won't tell you the* result, but what is really unsettling is that the two, who start their odyssey as "pretty cool buddies", end up coming to blows. **Elizabeth Cowley**

RADIO CHOICE

Sound Stories: Femmes Fatales
Radio 3, 11.00am

Sound Stories is not much longer for this world and although I applaud the new Controller Roger Wright's decision to bring more live music to the network at this time of the day, I have not been as vexed by *Sound Stories* as some people. Sometimes *the link between subject and the world of music* has been tenuous, though that cannot be said of today's subject, the extraordinary and ultimately tragic Isadora Duncan, bizarrely killed when her *scarf caught in the wheel of a car*: her children had also been killed in a car accident, one of the many incidents that made Duncan a controversial figure. But her position as one of the great innovators of dance is not in question. Today's presenter is Peggy Reynolds.

MacFlintock's Palace
Radio 4, 11.15pm

The late-night comedy half-hour on Radio 4 has two new series tonight: the return of *Truly, Madly, Bletchley* at 11pm followed by this newcomer. This is the slot for experimental comedy, a term which means that Radio 4 is not quite sure whether anybody will like it. But comedy goes nowhere without experimentation and *MacFlintock's Palace*, a six-parter written by Mark McDonnell and Steven McNicholl, has an attractive feel. The setting is *a Victorian music-hall in London run by Henry* MacFlintock, a man whose every waking hour is dedicated to keeping the theatre afloat and achieving a knighthood. Ghosts, lunatics and other impediments stalk the music-hall, as do temperamental stars. **Peter Barnard**

RADIO 1 (BBC)

6.30am Zoe Ball **9.00** Simon Mayo **12.00pm** Kevin Greening *2.00 Mark Radcliffe 4.00 Chris Moyles 5.45 Newsbeat* **6.00** Dave Pearce **8.00** Steve Lamacq: The Evening Session **10.00** Movie Update with Mark Kermode **10.10** John Peel. With a session by Black Star Liner **12.00am** Blue Jam **1.00** Gilles Peterson **4.00** Scott Mills

RADIO 2 (BBC)

6.00am Alex Lester **7.30** Wogan **9.30** Richard Allinson **12.00pm** Jimmy Young **2.00** Ed Stewart **5.05** Johnnie Walker **7.00** Nick Barraclough **8.00** Mike Harding **9.00** The Andy Peebles Soul Show (12/13) **10.00** Top of the Pops 2 on 2 (2/13) *10.30 Nicky Horne 12.00am Katrina Leskanich 3.00 Mo Dutta*

RADIO 5 LIVE (BBC)

5.00am Morning Reports **6.00** Breakfast **9.00** Nicky Campbell Includes reports on the first final in the one-day triangular series in Australia **12.00pm** The Midday News **1.00** Ruscoe and Co **4.00** Drive **7.00** News Extra. A full round-up and the main sports bulletin of the day **7.30** John Inverdale's Football Night. Coverage of all the night's internationals **10.00** Littlejohn **11.00** Late Night Live with Nick Robinson **1.00am** Up All Night

TALK RADIO

6.00am The Big Boys Breakfast **9.00** Scott Chisholm **12.00pm** *Jacobs Justice 1.00 Anna Raeburn 3.00 Peter Deeley 5.00 The* SportZone **7.00** Off Side with Seb Coe **8.00** James Whale **1.00am** Ian Collins and the Creatures of the Night

VIRGIN

6.30am Chris Evans **9.30** Mark Forrest **1.00pm** Nick Abbot **4.00** Harriet Scott **6.45** Peter and Geoff **10.00** James Merritt **1.00am** Steve Power **4.30** Richard Allen

BBC WORLD SERVICE

5.00am The World Today **7.00** World News **7.15** Outlook **7.55** *My Century 8.00 World News 8.05 Westway 8.20* Off the Shelf: Boyhood **8.35** One Planet **9.00** World News **9.05** Britain Now **9.20** World Ranking **9.50** Sports Round-Up **10.00** Newsdesk **10.30** Britain Today **10.45** Legal World **11.00** Newsdesk **11.30** Sports International **12.00pm** World News **12.05** Outlook **12.45** Sports Round-Up **1.00** Newshour **2.00** World News **2.05** One Planet **2.30** Meridian Live **3.00** World News **3.05** Sports Round-Up **3.15** From Our Own Correspondent **3.30** Jazzmatazz **4.00** World News **4.15** Insight **4.30** Multitrack. X-Press **5.00** Europe Today **5.30** World Business Report **5.45** Sports Round-Up **6.00** World News **6.15** Britain Today **6.30** Sports International **7.00** World News **7.05** One Planet **7.30** Wild Tales **7.45** Off the Shelf: Boyhood **8.00** Newshour **9.00** *World News 9.05 World Business Report 9.20 Britain Today* **9.30** On Screen **10.00** World News **10.15** Sports Round-Up **10.30** Multitrack. X-Press **11.00** World News **11.05** Outlook **11.45** Insight **12.00am** The World Today **12.30** One Planet **12.55** *My Century* **1.00** *The World Today* **1.30** *Meridian Live* **2.00** The World Today **2.30** Everywoman **3.00** The World Today **3.20** Sports Round-Up **3.30** World Business Report **3.45** Insight **4.00** The World Today

CLASSIC FM

6.00am Nick Bailey's Easier Breakfast. Soothing music and information updates **8.00** Henry Kelly. The Hall of Fame Hour, and favourite pieces voted for in the Classic FM Top 300 **12.00pm** Lunchtime Requests. Jane Jones spins listeners' favourites **2.00** Concerto. Vivaldi (Bassoon Concerto in C major); Henry Hargrove (Bassoon Concerto) **3.00** Jamie Crick. Including Afternoon Romance and Continuous Classics **6.30** Newsnight. Headlines, arts news and guests **7.00** Smooth Classics at Seven. John Brunning introduces easy-listening sounds *9.00 Evening Concert. Beethoven (Overture, Die Weihe* des Hauses); Smetana (Richard III: Symphonic Poem), Beethoven (Piano Concerto in D); Berlioz (Symphonie Funebre et Triomphale) **11.00** Mappin at Night **2.00am** Concerto. Vivaldi (Bassoon Concerto in C major); Henry Hargrove (Bassoon Concerto) (r) **3.00** Mark Griffiths

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air with Petroc Trelawny. Includes a preview of an exhibition of etchings by Piranesi, Canaletto and Tiepolo at the Courtauld Gallery
9.00 Masterworks with Penny Gore. Liszt (Totentanz); Barber (Adagio for strings), Rachmaninov (Symphony No 2 in E minor)
10.30 Artist of the Week: Leonard Slatkin
11.00 Sound Stories: Five Femmes Fatales — Isadora Duncan See Choice (3/5)
12.00pm Composer of the Week: Telemann
1.00 The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert Live from the Adrian Boult Hall, Birmingham Conservatoire. Hamish Milne, piano. Beethoven (Piano Sonata in E flat, Op 7); Medtner (Sonata Minacciosa in F minor, Op 53 No 2)
2.00 The BBC Orchestras BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra under Osmo Vanska and Jerzy Maksymiuk, with the Scottish Festival Singers
4.00 Choral Evensong Live from Exeter Cathedral
5.00 In Tune Sean Rafferty's guest is Larry Adler, the harmonica player who knew Gershwin, Al Capone and Charlie Chaplin
7.30 Performance on 3 BBC National Orchestra of Wales under Mark Wigglesworth. Maurice Hasson, violin, Paul Meyer, clarinet, Steven Burnard, viola. Respighi (Fountains of Rome); Paganini (Violin Concerto No 1 in D), Berio (Alternatim, first UK performance); Respighi (Pines of Rome)
9.20 Postscript: Magnum at the Millennium (3/5)
9.45 Carlos Gardel Vintage love songs from the celebrated Argentinian tango singer, accompanied by the guitarists Barbieri, Aguilar and Riverol. Recorded in Buenos Aires in 1930
10.00 Ensemble Includes Beethoven (Variations on a Theme from Handel's Judas Maccabaeus)
10.45 Night Waves Laura Cumming discusses the world premiere of Iain Crichton Smith's last work, *The Visitor*, commissioned by the Traverse Theatre in Edinburgh
11.30 Jazz Notes Alyn Shipton looks at New Orleans trumpeters from Louis Armstrong onwards
12.00am Composer of the Week: Liszt (r)
1.00 Through the Night Includes **1.00** Sofia PO under Konstantin Iliev, Dmitri Shostakovich Jr, piano. Shostakovich (Piano Concerto No 2; Symphony No 8) **2.20** Brahms (Cello Sonata in E minor, Op 38) **3.00** Schools. Time and Tune **3.20** Together **3.40** *Dance Workshop* **4.00** The Song Tree **4.20** Scottish Resources 10-12 **4.40** Talking Points **5.00** Debussy (Images, Set 2) **5.25** Andrea Gabrieli (Qui la Dira; Cantate Domino) **5.30** Haydn (Symphony No 92 in G, Oxford)

RADIO 4

5.30am World News 5.35 Shipping Forecast
5.40 Inshore Forecast 5.45 Prayer for the Day
5.47 Farming Today Rural issues, with Anna Hill
6.00 Today with Sue MacGregor and James Naughtie
8.35 (LW) Yesterday in Parliament Round-up of political news
9.00 Midweek with the *Times* columnist Libby Purves
9.45 (LW) Daily Service
9.45 (FM) Serial: The Tulip
10.00 Woman's Hour with Jenni Murray and guests
11.00 Murder, Magic and Medicine Michael O'Donnell explores the secrets of fungi, which may hold the key to revolutionary new drug therapies (5/6)
11.30 Tomorrow at the Same Time American radio serials of the 1930s and 1940s (3/6) (r)
12.00pm (LW) News Headlines; Shipping Forecast
12.00 (FM) News 12.04 You and Yours Consumer news and investigations
1.00 The World at One with Nick Clarke
1.30 Board Game Panellists Peter Day, Greg Dyke, Steve Punt and Justin Urquhart Stewart take part in the business quiz, chaired by Nigel Cassidy
2.00 The Archers (r)
2.15 Afternoon Play: The Letters of Abelard and Heloise Lynsey Baxter and Anton Lesser read the passionate letters of the ill-fated 12th-century lovers, confined to monastery and convent by cruel families. With the songs of Pierre Abelard
3.00 Gardeners' Question Time Residents of Clevedon, Somerset put horticultural queries to Roy Lancaster, Bob Flowerdew and Anne Swithinbank (r)
3.30 Going, Going, Gone International collectors gather for Christie's corkscrew auction (3/5) (r)
3.45 This Sceptred Isle Anna Massey narrates part 28 of the history of Britain
4.00 All in the Mind Professor Anthony Clare explores the limits of the human mind
4.30 Thinking Allowed Laurie Taylor and guests think the unthinkable about society
5.00 PM Presented by Clare English and Chris Lowe
6.00 Six O'Clock News
6.30 Like They've Never Been Gone Mike Coleman's comedy, starring Roy Hudd and June Whitfield (r)
7.00 The Archers The day of reckoning arrives
7.15 Front Row Mark Lawson presents the nightly arts programme
7.45 Speaking for Themselves: The Personal Letters of Winston and Clementine Churchill Broadcast earlier as part of *Woman's Hour* (r)
8.00 The Moral Maze *Michael Buerk presents topical* debate, with David Starkey, Janet Daley, Ian Hargreaves and David Cook
8.45 Letter from Laramie Fraser Harrison recalls his cowboy childhood in 1940s Liverpool (r)
9.00 Frontiers How deep-sea mining off the coast of Australia could spark a technological revolution
9.30 Midweek Lively conversation. Broadcast earlier (r)
10.00 The World Tonight *With Justin Webb*
10.45 Book at Bedtime: Mark Twain Stories Kelsey Grammer reads *Experience of the MacWilliamses with Membraneous Croup* (3/5)
11.00 Late Night on 4: Truly, Madly, Bletchley New series. Julian Dutton's comedy set in the town of Bletchley. With Liz Fraser, Peter Hugo-Daly, Stephen Critchlow and Matthew Bell (1/6)
11.15 MacFlintock's Palace New series. Comedy set in a Victorian music-hall. See Choice
11.30 (FM) The Cheese Shop Presents: The Butter Factor Comedy sketches, with Gerard Foster, Dave Lamb, Gordon Southern, Tim Vennider, Ben Ward and Richard Webb (r)
11.30 (LW) Today in Parliament Political update
12.00am News 12.30 The Late Book: Lemona's Tale Written by Ken Saro-Wiwa (8/10)
12.48 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. **RADIO 2.** FM 88.0-90.2. **RADIO 3.** FM 90.2-92.4. **RADIO 4.** FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 720. **RADIO 5 LIVE.** MW 693, 909. **WORLD SERVICE.** MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). **CLASSIC FM.** FM 100-102. **VIRGIN RADIO.** FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. **TALK RADIO.** MW 1053, 1089.
Television and radio listings compiled by Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McNamara.

Belief in the hard sell spirals out of control

REVIEW



Joe Joseph

Salesman — even Willy Loman — used to be able to see the lighter side of life. They were people with whom you could crack a joke as you cut a deal. When someone asked Lew Grade how much two and two made, he replied, like the wheeler-dealer he was: "Buying or selling?"

But the modern salesmen we met in **Workers at War** BBC1's new documentary series about life in the workplace, prepare for an encounter with customers the way *GIs parachuted into Vietnam* prepared to meet the Vietcong.

Apparently it's a war out there. At North Amber computer sales in Surbiton, the telephone sales team are goaded into a frenzy by a Mr Motivator who tells them: "Let's break the marketplace! Let's drop it, flop it, shop it! We ARE North Amber!" To their credit, few of the staff snorted up their sleeves, probably because the sleeve-snorters had been weeded out at the interviews. "It's very competitive," explained their boss, "that's the whole idea of it. What we're looking to recruit is people who are hungry, bubbly, little bastards."

But the trouble with human beings is that they're so unreliable. Take Carl: he passed the interview, underwent training, and seemed to be flourishing when, suddenly, he was no longer dropping, flopping, and shopping it. His boss wants to give him a second chance, provided Carl has the mettle for the long haul.

So he asks him out straight: "Carl, where are you on your belief spiral?" It must have been a rhetorical question, or else Carl was remaining silent because he had no more idea what his boss was talking about than if he'd asked *him the exact same question in* Norwegian. But just to make sure he got the message, Carl's boss let him in on the secret of success: "Stop thinking! Thinking is dangerous! When you think, you start letting negative pictures in your mind!" I'll bet Lew Grade drilled that into his staff all the time.

Now Martin Cahill, the notorious Dublin gangster whose life was vividly portrayed in **Vicious Circle** (BBC1), had his own, novel methods of motivating his men. Suspecting a member of his gang of double-crossing him, Cahill taught him a lesson by nailing his hands to the floor. When a rookie copper, hearing of this horrifying gangland punishment, stammered: "If someone did that to me I'd give 'em up", his cynical, seen-it-all-before boss replied. "Not if you thought they were gonna come for your feet next." Now *THAT'S a results-led incentive programme* they don't often teach you about on salesmanship courses.

Ken Stott — whose face has an uncanny knack of being able to convey warmth and menace almost simultaneously — made a convincingly unpleasant Cahill, a cruel, clever, but dangerously vain man who supported two households — one with his wife and children and another with his wife's *sister, with whom he also fathered* several children. What undid him in the end was not the wiliness of the Garda — around whom he ran rings, and whose incompetence was mocked by *Vicious Circle*'s author, Kieran Prendiville. (When, in one scene, an officer tells his colleague that it won't be old-fashioned police work that eventually traps Cahill, the colleague cheekily snaps straight back: "We're not going to fit him up, then?").

No, what did for Cahill was his belief in his invulnerability. Cahill was too vain to see how many enemies he was making in the IRA with his headline-grabbing robberies, especially his ingenious theft of paintings from the Beit Collection in Russborough House. These proved easier to steal than to sell: they were too recognisable.

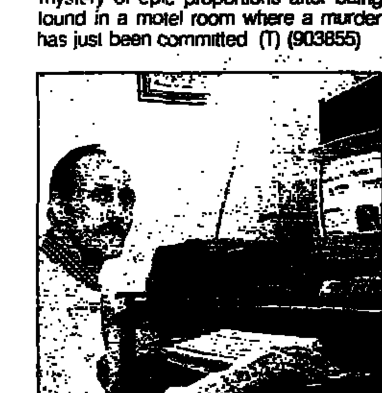
Cornered, he tried to salvage some self-esteem (and cash) by selling the Goyas and Vermeers through loyalist paramilitaries. *Now it was the IRA's vanity that* was ruffled. Within 24 hours, the man Ireland had come to know as The General was shot by an IRA gunman on a Dublin street as he sat in his car, waiting for the lights to change. Cunning, Raffles-like robberies; political intrigue; mob life: betrayal; unconventional marital set-ups; police chases; senseless violence — here was a true-life story that had everything a film-maker could want. This fact didn't escape the notice of several other film-makers. John Boorman's *The General* pipped David Blair's film for BBC Northern Ireland to the screen, winning a prize at Cannes, and another this week in London. Still to come is another version, starring Kevin Spacey.

Perhaps the new film will explain one of the more mysterious things about Cahill: the unflashiness of his life. Apart from keeping pigeons, and two *families, he spent money on nothing*. Junior salesmen at North Amber drive fancier motors than Cahill did. Maybe those daring heists were just a cry for recognition.

In Sheffield they make a similar plea to be noticed, only they do it with spray cans. In **Graffiti Wars**, this non-judgmental film for Channel 4's series *of Short Stories*, Hugo Smith tracked down a handful of people who haven't grown out of doodling their name repeatedly in their schoolbooks. Lord knows, British train carriages are ugly enough, with their fascination for orange and blue decor: but few of them look better once graffiti writers like "Crome" and "Fiba" and "Mist 1" have sprayed six cans of paint across their outsides.

These graffiti writers like to portray themselves as "people's artists", who risk their lives in the name of art. But Crome gave the game away when he admitted that the thrill was knowing that other *graffiti writers would spot his "signature"* all over town. "For me that's a bit of fame," he said, which makes you wonder: where, exactly, is Crome on his belief spiral?

6.00am Business Breakfast (72590)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (T) (25519)
9.00 Kilroy (T) (8187045)
9.45 The Vanessa Show (T) (4413720)
10.55 News; Weather (T) (6585584)
11.00 Real Rooms (6668861)
11.25 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (T) (6565720)
11.55 News; Weather (T) (1755107)
12.00pm Call My Bluff *(96958)*
12.30 Wipeout (2869869)
12.55 The Weather Show (T) (48211671)
1.00 One O'Clock News (T) (22478)
1.30 Regional News; Weather (47940039)
1.40 Neighbours (T) (25829294)
2.05 Live Snooker: Benson and Hedges Masters Peter Ebdon faces either Jimmy White or Mark King (3976855)
2.55 Body Spies (5393045)
3.25 Children's BBC: Playdays (6216774) **3.45** Little Monsters (2013478) **3.50** ChuckleVision (5918590) **4.10** See It Saw It (3355584) **4.35** The Wild House (5915039) **5.00** Newsround (2455107) **5.10** Blue Peter (6007749)
5.35 Neighbours (r) (T) (108836)
6.00 Six O'Clock News; Weather (T) (381)
6.30 Regional News Magazine (861)
7.00 Airport A "fear of flying" course is arranged for staff (r) (T) (7478)
7.30 Dream House (T) (395)
8.00 Changing Rooms Neighbours in East Dulwich are challenged to revamp each other's bedrooms (T) (6126)
8.30 Battersea Dogs' Home An elderly man arrives at the home looking for a companion (T) (206300)
8.50 The National Lottery: Amazing Luck Stories (T) (288519)
9.00 Nine O'Clock News; Regional News; Weather (T) (1229)
9.29 National Lottery Update (672855)
9.30 The X Files A blind woman poses a mystery of epic proportions after being found in a motel room where a murder has just been committed (T) (903855)



A look at people who have abandoned their partners (10.15pm)

10.15 CHOICE **Inside Story** Three wronged partners confront betrayal and heartbreak, including a woman whose husband ran off with his Internet lover *(4/5) (T) (864132)*
11.05 CHOICE **Black and White** New series. Following on from a project to expose racial discrimination in Bristol, two reporters pick up the investigation in Leeds (1/3) (T) (706584)
11.40 Ski Sunday Special Highlights of the World Championships (188294)
12.10am A Woman Scorned (TVM 1991) FILM Drama based on a true story, starring Meredith Baxter as a woman who suspects her husband is having an affair — and takes a drastic form of revenge. Directed by Dick Lowry (T) (3308237)
1.40 Weather (8634695)
1.45 BBC News 24 (70359782)

7.00am CBBC Breakfast Show: Tales of the Tooth Fairies (3271294) **7.05** Teletubbies (6199836) **7.30** Snorks (6041403) **7.55** The Really Wild Show (5877966) **8.18** Rewind (9291229) **8.20** Taz-Mania (2271229) **8.45** Polka Dot Shorts (3111403) **8.55** Tales of the Tooth Fairies (8330478) **9.00** Environment (6980279) **9.10** What? Where? When? Why? (6085823) **9.25** The Art (4859652) **9.45** Words and Pictures (1029229) **10.00** Teletubbies (89229) **10.30** Numbertime (2946923) **10.45** Cats' Eyes (2941478) **11.00** Around Scotland (3033479) **11.20** Geography Programme (8235855) **11.40** Science in Action (8643039) **12.00pm** Revista (9795316) **12.15** Hallo aus Berlin (7153381) **12.30** Working Lunch (49584) **1.00** Brum (94367861)
1.10 The Travel Hour The sights and sounds of Paris (r) (9958923)
2.10 Wildlife on Two (r) (T) (61177132)
2.40 News; Weather (T) (3366010)
2.45 Westminster (T) (2270836)
3.55 News; Weather (T) (6214768)
4.00 Live Snooker: Benson and Hedges Masters Action from the Wembley Conference Centre (8829403)

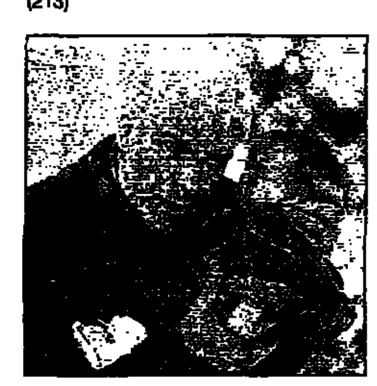


Will England's Darren Gough be the hero of the hour? (5.10pm)

5.10 International Cricket The triangular tournament final (6511855)
6.00 Star Trek: The Next Generation The Enterprise gets stuck in an emergency situation (r) (T) (940958)
6.45 Live Snooker: Benson and Hedges Masters Further coverage (264855)
7.30 Tales from the Riverbank The natural history of the eel (r) (T) (687)
8.00 Battle of the Sexes A look at the divisiveness of sex (T) (4768)
8.30 Home Front Stewart and Sally Walton create a functional living room for a frustrated Bristol family (12/12) (T) (9403)
9.00 CHOICE **Mersey Blues** Chief Inspector Elmore Davies is charged with corruption (T) (765381)
9.50 CHOICE **Blood on the Carpet** Account of how two Interflora florists were so appalled by the corporate rigour put upon them that they took matters into their own hands (T) (608403)
10.30 Newsnight *(T) (659942)*
11.15 Snooker: Benson and Hedges Masters Round-up (880590)
11.55 Weather (968294)
12.00am Despatch Box Political news (50492)
12.30 BBC Learning Zone: Open University: Fertility Management **1.00** Newton's Revolution **1.30** The Physics of Ball Games **2.00** Schools: Special Needs — Ghostwriter **4.00** Languages: The French Experience **5.00** Business and Training: Voluntary Matters **5.30** 20 Steps to Better Management: Telling People What You Think of Them **5.45** Open University: Body Plans **6.10** Insect Diversity **6.35** Molluscs, Mechanisms and Minds

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5.30am ITN Morning News (12652)
6.00 GMTV (9664346)
9.25 Trisha (T) (5474671)
10.30 This Morning (T) (11588478)
12.15pm HTV News (T) (7157107)
12.30 ITN Lunchtime News (T) (36010)
1.00 WEST: Next Stop Richard Wyatt, Polly Lloyd and correspondents visit *Malmesbury (13774)*
1.00 WALES: Shortland Street Lionel faces temptation (13774)
1.30 Home and Away (T) (35381)
2.00 The Jerry Springer Show (T) (5892010)
2.45 Supermarket Sweep (T) (319836)
3.15 ITN News Headlines (T) (5400872)
3.20 HTV News (T) (8650395)
3.25 CITV: Mopatop's Shop (7258188) **3.35** Teddybears (3264229) **3.45** Jumanji (6025300) **4.10** Whizzwig (6207178) **4.40** Mad for It (2239942)
5.10 A Country Practice Harry tries to hypnotise Esme (9247039)
5.40 ITN Early Evening News (T) (562497)
5.59 HTV Crimestoppers (526836)
6.00 Home and Away Joey pulls his socks up (r) (T) (804126)
6.25 WALES: Wales Tonight (T) (830132)
6.25 WEST: HTV Weather (T) (232590)
6.30 WEST: The West Tonight (T) (229)
7.00 Emmerdale Is Zoe losing her grip? (T) (8774)
7.30 Coronation Street Roy confesses all (T) (213)



Steve Martin reprises his role as the trouble patriarch (8pm)

8.00 Father of the Bride II (1995) FILM Steve Martin returns as the put-upon Dad, who this time is shocked to find he's about to become a father again as well as a first-time grandparent. Comedy sequel, also starring Diane Keaton, Martin Short, Kimberly Williams and Kieran Culkin. Directed by Charles Shyer (T) (8861)
10.00 News at Ten; Weather (T) (19855)
10.30 HTV News and Weather (T) (958855)
10.40 The Big Match Highlights of England v France (847590)
11.40 WEST: Anatomy of Disaster The damage caused by floods, which kill more people than any other natural disaster (626584)
11.40 WALES: Renegade Reno protects his former karate teacher (626584)
12.45am Cop (1987) FILM A dedicated policeman's obsessive hunt for a serial killer leads to the breakdown of his relationships with his wife and colleagues. Drama, starring James Woods. Directed by Steve Dubin (T) (279237)
2.40 Masterclass With playwright John Godber (1464256)
3.05 Judge Judy (T) (80346343)
3.30 Trisha Shown earlier (r) (T) (46256)
4.30 The Making of Dances with Wolves Behind the scenes (r) (94497017)
4.55 ITV Nightscreen (88995275)
5.00 Coronation Street (r) (T) (50633)

As HTV West except: **12.20pm-12.30 Central News;** Weather (T) (8556039) **1.00 Echo Point** (13774) **1.30 The Jerry Springer Show** (T) (1643300) **2.15-2.45 Home and Away** (T) (310565) **3.20-3.25 Central News** (T) (8650395) **5.10-5.40 Shortland Street** (9247039) **6.25-7.00 Central News;** Weather (T) (830132) **10.30-10.40 Central News;** Weather (T) (958855) **11.40-12.45 Doomsday: What Can We Do?** (626584) **4.25am Central Jobfinder '99** (T) (2327966) **5.20-5.30 Asian Eye** (7458140)

WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except **12.15pm-12.27 Westcountry News;** Weather (T) (7157107) **12.27-12.30 Illuminations** (8637958) **1.00 Emmerdale** (r) (T) (13774) **1.30 The Jerry Springer Show** (T) (1643300) **2.15-2.45 Home and Away** (T) (310565) **3.20-3.25 Westcountry News;** Weather (T) (8650395) **5.08 Birthday People** (5332565) **5.10-5.40 Home and Away** (T) (9247039) **6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live** (T) (24229) **10.30-10.40 Westcountry News;** Weather (T) (958855) **11.40-12.45 Greatest Goals** (r) (626584)

MERIDIAN

As HTV West except: **12.15pm-12.30 Meridian News;** Weather (7157107) **1.00-1.35 Shortland Street** (9917942) **5.10-5.40 Home and Away** (T) (9247039) **6.00 Meridian Tonight** (…749) **6.30-7.00 Birdwatch** (6/6) (r) (229) **10.30-10.40 Meridian News;** Weather (T) (958855) **5.00am-5.30 Freescreen** (T) (50633)

ANGLIA

As HTV West except **12.19pm Anglia Air Watch** (8631774) **12.20-12.30 Anglia News and Weather** (8556039) **1.00-1.35 Shortland Street** (9917942) **5.10-5.40 Home and Away** (T) (9247039) **5.59 Anglia Weather** (T) (526836) **6.00 Anglia News** (T) (749) **6.30-7.00 Whipsnade** (3/13) (T) (229) **10.29 Anglia Air Watch** (166519) **10.30-10.40 Anglia News and Weather** (T) (958855) **11.40 Crime Night** (389774) **11.55 First Take** (r) (347010) **12.10am-12.45 Tales from the Darkside** (r) (2473459)

S4C

Starts: **6.00am Sesame Street** (r) (47611768) **7.00 The Big Breakfast** (34211132) **9.00 Ysgolion:** French Express (83116497) **9.25 Schools At Work** (43525316) **9.30 Rat-a-Tat-Tat** (94339403) **9.45 Book Box** (94334958) **10.00 Stage Two Science** (20668720) **10.15 All About Us** (20681671) **10.30 The French Programme** (69952855) **10.50 Stop, Look, Listen** (21956126) **11.00 Dwr, Aer, Tir** (95523768) **11.15 Tackling Technology** (95619519) **11.30 Powerhouse** (T) (40620213) **12.00pm Home Improvement** (T) (29547126) **12.30 Sesame Street** (T) (38185213) **1.00 Planed Plant** (T) (34221519) **1.30 Roots to Success** (T) (27772497) **1.50 FILM: She'll Have To Go** (T) (51806887) **3.30 Collectors' Lot** (T) (81080497) **4.00 Fifteen-to-One** (T) (81165132) **4.30 Dishes** (T) (81161316) **5.00 Planed Plant** (T) (64579107) **5.30 Countdown** (T) (81089768) **6.00 Newyddion 6** (T) (54457590) **6.10 Heno** (T) (16267497) **7.00 Pobol y Cwm** (T) (64582671) **7.30 Newyddion** (T) (81162045) **8.00 Ffermio** (T) (64671519) **8.30 Pacio** (T) (64587126) **9.00 ER** (T) (75553799) **10.00 Brookside** (T) (60289836) ***10.35 Sex and the City*** (T) (56769774) **11.05 love.co.uk** (T) (67500958) **11.35 Mark Thomas Comedy Product** (T) (63612229) **12.05am The Spying Game** (1/6) (T) (50820459) **12.45 Football Italia: Mezzanotte** (19242527) **3.10 Trans World Sport** (87545343) **4.05 Diwedd**

6.00am Sesame Street (92300)
7.00 The Big Breakfast (18229)
9.00 Schools: French Express (4822497) **9.25** Schools at Work (6207958) **9.30** Rat-a-Tat-Tat (1946942) **9.45** Book Box (1941497) **10.00** Stage Two Science (9170010) **10.15** All About Us (9266861) **10.30** Channel Hopping (7073958) **10.50** Stop, Look, Listen (3633126) **11.00** First Edition VI (8226107) **11.15** Tackling Technology (8312958)
11.30 Powerhouse (T) (8132)
12.00pm Sesame Street (T) (16768)
12.30 Bewitched (r) (T) (34652)
1.00 Pet Rescue Highlights from the first series of the show (T) (11316)
1.30 Earthscape Kangaroos (T) (90573671)
1.35 Uncle Silas (1947) FILM Jean Simmons stars as a 17-year-old heiress whose life is threatened by the dark designs of a scheming uncle. Period drama, with Derrick De Marney. Directed by Charles Frank (T) (38339519)
3.30 Collectors' Lot A visit to the London Silver Vaults (T) (107)
4.00 Fifteen-to-One (T) (942)
4.30 Countdown (T) (5909478)
4.55 Ricki Lake Guests share their views on commitment (T) (3556381)
5.30 Pet Rescue The staff cope with an influx of goats (T) (478)
6.00 Late Lunch with Mel and Sue Nick Hancock joins Sue Perkins and Mel Giedroyc (42671)
7.00 Channel 4 News; Weather (T) (238045)
7.55 The Millennial Miniatures Ivan Fear waxes lyrical about the wonders of steam power (T) (206297)
8.00 Brookside Luke's nightmare continues (T) (9836)
8.30 The Real Holiday Show A Liverpool woman plans a hen night with a difference and two skydivers have high hopes for their wedding day (T) (1671)
9.00 ER Benton is taken aback to learn of his son's deafness. Carter suffers sleepless nights (T) (9923)



Kim Cattrall stars as Samantha, one of the Manhattan singles (10pm)

10.00 Sex and the City Charlotte dumps her boyfriend and Samantha finds a new love (T) (17497)
10.30 love.co.uk How the rise in e-mail, pagers and the Internet has brought about a new and exciting way to find romance (T) (99045)
11.00 Mark Thomas Comedy Product Satirical comedy and hoaxes (6584)
11.30 So Graham Norton (r) (283346)
12.10am boardstupid (r) (2464701)
12.45 Football Italia: Mezzanotte Round-up *of the week's action (13950169)*
3.10 Trans World Sport (6019169)
4.05 Madonna of the Seven Moons (1944) FILM A woman's traumatic childhood rape has dramatic consequences in later life. Melodrama, starring Phyllis Calvert. Directed by Arthur Crabtree (550362)

6.00am 5 News and Sport With Becky Anderson (6505478)
7.00 WideWorld Part nine. Examining the creativity of famous female authors (r) (T) (6043519)
7.30 Milkshake! (3197313)
7.35 Wimzie's House (r); 5 News Update (3298045)
8.00 Havakazoo (r) (4071519)
8.30 Dappledown Farm (r); 5 News Update (4063590)
9.00 Hot Property (r) (T) (1690126)
9.25 Russell Grant's Postcards (7325497)
9.30 The Oprah Winfrey Show (6061381)
10.20 Sunset Beach Sean, Emily and Amy are involved in an accident (T) (1141774)
11.10 Leeza (4487497)
12.00pm 5 News at Noon (T) (4978478)
12.30 Family Affairs Clive plans a feast (r) (T). 5 News Update (9913652)
1.00 The Bold and the Beautiful James's father jumps to the wrong conclusion (T) (6035590)
1.30 The Roseanne Show Entertainment chat show, presented by outspoken comedian. 5 News Update (9912923)
2.00 100 Per Cent Gold (5168652)
2.30 Good Afternoon Daily entertainment. 5 News Update (1884132)
3.30 Trouble in Paradise (1988) FILM Romantic adventure. Wealthy widow Raquel Welch sets sail for the US, only to be shipwrecked on a tropical island with happy-go-lucky Australian seaman Jack Thompson. Directed by Di Drew (9705294)
5.20 Sunset Beach Shown earlier (r) (T); 5 News Update (8841395)
6.00 100 Per Cent Computer-generated quiz (6325497)
6.30 Family Affairs Josh stands up for his rights (T) (6316749)
7.00 5 News; Weather. A round-up of the day's stories, including *First on Five* (T) (5179768)
7.30 Malaysian Jungle An examination of the effects of drought on the flora and fauna of a rainforest (T). 5 News Update (6401861)
8.00 Into the Flames How firefighters cope with the daunting prospect of real towering infernos — conflagrations in high-rise buildings (1323590)
9.00 Little Nikita (1988) FILM Sidney Poitier plays an FBI agent investigating a network of Russian spies who have infiltrated America, with River Phoenix as a young man whose parents turn out to be Soviet agents. Thriller, also starring Richard Jenkins and Elizabeth Grant. Directed by Richard Benjamin (T); 5 News Update (99705687)
10.50 Melinda's Big Night In With guests Tom Hollander and Boyz Unlimited (8320403)
11.30 Strange Luck Chance finally finds his long-lost brother Eric — but will he live up to expectations? (9044768)
12.25am NHL: American Ice Hockey Richard Orford and Todd Macklin present live coverage of the game between Buffalo Sabres and Ottawa Senators (27753140)
4.40 The Movie Chart Show News and reviews (r) (65026411)
5.05 Move On Up (r) (46869633)
5.30 100 Per Cent (r) (9960508)

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● For further listings see Saturday's *Vision*

SKY ONE

7.00am Count Duckula (65107) **7.30** The Chris Evans Breakfast Show (55316) **8.30** Hollywood Squares (34132) **9.00** Sally *Jessy Raphael* (51519) **10.00** The Oprah Winfrey Show (73126) **11.00** Guilty (59590) **12.00pm** Jenny Jones (86039) **1.00** Mad About You (64475) **1.30** Jeopardy (62403) **2.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (24316) **3.00** Jenny Jones (71627) **4.00** Guilty (87294) **5.00** Star Trek: Voyager (5039) **6.00** Guilty (3671) **6.30** Friends (3923) **7.00** The Simpsons (6765) **7.30** The Simpsons (9107) **8.00** Stargate SG-1 (59836) **9.00** The X-Files (18652) **10.00** Naked in Westminster (28039) **11.00** Friends (68923) **11.30** Star Trek: Voyager (43768) **12.30am** Rr Commish (35817) **1.30** Long Play (15850)

SKY BOX OFFICE

Sky's pay-per-view movie channels. To view any film telephone 0990 800888
SKY BOX OFFICE 1 (Transponder 26) **Double Team (1997)**
SKY BOX OFFICE 2 (Transponder 60) **Fools Rush In (1997)**
SKY BOX OFFICE 3 (Transponder 59) **Paws (1998)** **Boogie Nights (1997)**
SKY BOX OFFICE 4 (Transponder 58) **In and Out (1997)**

FILMFOUR

6.00pm The Navigator: A Medieval Odyssey (1988) (1296476) **7.30 La Jetee (1962)** (1522720) **8.00 Twelve Monkeys (1995)** (7962930) **10.15 The Hamster Factory and Other Tales of Twelve Monkeys (1996)** (6754749) **11.45 Time After Time (1980)** (1565316) **1.35am The Joy Luck Club (1993)** (99700343) **3.50 Heavy (1995)** (12515463) **6.00** Close

SKY PREMIER

7.00am Merlin's Shop of Mystical Wonders (1995) (27565) **8.00 The Good Old Boys (TVM 1995)** (33010) **10.00 Northern Lights (1997)** (65590) **12.00pm Rhinestone (1984)** (23561) **2.00 Merlin's Shop of Mystical Wonders (1995)** (96701) **4.00 The Good Old Boys (TVM 1995)** (1213) **6.00 Northern Lights (1997)** (50010) **7.30** Barry Norman's Film Night (8045) **8.00 The Evening Star (1996)** (39513861) **10.10 Con Air (1997)** (111478) **12.10am A Thin Line Between Love and Hate (1996)** (108817) **2.00 The Pope Must Die (1991)** (460614) **3.40 The Glass Cage (1996)** (19666546)

SKY MOVIEMAX

5.00am Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness on the Planet of Apes (1974) (55923) **7.00** Femmes Fatales: Angela Bassett (56403) **7.30** Action Heroes: Harrison Ford (5713942) **8.15** Movie Magic: Trouble in the Skies (9855120) **9.00 Here Comes the Son (1996)** (28132) **11.00 Playing to Win (1997)** (22126) **1.00pm** Femmes Fatales: Angela Bassett (55774) **1.30** Action Heroes: Harrison Ford (9422300) **2.15** Movie Magic: Trouble in the Skies (2560010) **3.00 Here Comes the Son (1996)** (47584) **5.00 Norwood (1970)** (48381) ***7.00 Playing to Win (1997)*** (98251) **8.30** E! News Week in Review (2519) **9.00 Sins of the Mind (1997)** (26671) **11.00 The Killing Grounds (1997)** (258768) **12.35am Miami Blues (1990)** (713256) **2.15 Mind Breakers (1996)** (744188) **3.50 Graffiti Bridge (1990)** (7865035)

SKY CINEMA

4.00pm Sherlock Holmes and the Secret Weapon (1942) (4393652) **5.30** Hollywood Hall of Fame: Elizabeth Taylor (3423687) **6.00 East of Eden (1955)** (1017381) **8.00 The Gallant Hours (1960)** (1029126) **10.00 The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance (1962)** (87526861) **12.05am The Great Dictator (1940)** (40183237) **2.10 The Eighth Day (1996)** (8179504) **4.10 Tight Spot (1955)** (9545898)

TNT

9.00pm The Treasure of the Sierra Madre (1948) (89344359) **11.30 White Heat (1949)** (44509738) **1.45am Zabriskie Point (1970)** (89504169) **3.45 Mad Love (1935)** (77685169) **5.00** Close

SKY SPORTS 1

7.00am Sports Centre **7.15** World Wrestling Federation: Live Wire **8.15** You're On Sky Sports! **9.00** Racing News **9.30** Aerobics Oz Style **10.00** Inside Scottish Football **11.00** Sports Unlimited **12.00pm** Aerobics Oz Style **12.30** Snooker **2.30** World Windsurfing **3.00** Inside Scottish Football **4.00** Boxing Superbouts **5.00** World Wrestling Federation: Shotgun **6.00** Sports Centre **6.30** Boxing: Big Fight Countdown **7.00** Golf Extra **10.00** Sports Centre **10.15** You're On Sky Sports! **11.00** Boxing: Big Fight Countdown **11.30** European Tour Weekly **12.00am** Sports Centre **12.15** You're On Sky Sports! **1.00** Live Golf: Australian Masters

SKY SPORTS 2

7.00am Aerobics Oz Style **7.30** Live International Cricket **11.00** World Windsurfing **11.30** Squash **12.30pm** International Football **2.30** Fastrax **3.00** International Cricket **6.00** World Pool League **7.00** Live International Football **10.30** Unbelievable Sports **11.00** Watersports World **12.00am** V-Max **12.30** International Football **2.00** Unbelievable Sports **2.30** Sports Centre **2.45** Close

SKY SPORTS 3

12.00pm World Wrestling Federation. Shotgun **1.00** Fish TV **2.00** Boxing Superbouts **3.00** Olympic Series. Road to Nagano **3.30** Golf Extra **6.30** European Tour Golf Weekly **7.00** International Cricket **10.00** FA Cup Final Classics **11.30** Close

EUROSPORT

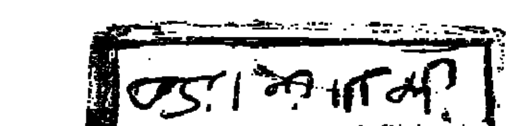
7.30am Football Eurogoals **9.00** Women's Biathlon **10.00** Live Biathlon **12.00pm** Alpine Skiing **1.00** Ski-Jumping **2.00** *Biathlon **3.30** Live Tennis* **7.00** Start Your Engines **8.00** Stock Car **9.30** International Football **11.00** Start Your Engines **12.00am** Car on Ice **12.30** Close

UK GOLD

7.00am Crossroads **7.30** Neighbours **7.55** EastEnders **8.30** The Bill **9.00** The Bill **9.30** When the Boat Comes In **10.30** Rhoda **11.00** Dallas **11.55** Neighbours **12.25pm** EastEnders **1.00** Juliet Bravo **2.00** Dallas **2.55** The Bill **3.25** The Bill **3.55** EastEnders **4.30** Rhoda **5.00** All Creatures Great and Small **6.00** Dynasty **7.00** 2point4 Children **7.40** Dad's Army **8.20** The Detectives **9.00** Men Behaving Badly **9.40** Men Behaving Badly **10.20** Only Fools and Horses **12.15am** The Bill **12.45** The Bill **1.15** The Black Adder **1.50** Spender **2.45** Shopping with Screenshop

GRANADA PLUS

6.00am Within These Walls **7.00** On the Buses **7.30** Doctor in the House **8.00** Beadle's About **8.30** The Fosters **9.00** Classic Coronation Street **9.30** Emmerdale Farm **10.00** thirtysomething **11.00** Hawaii Five-O **12.00pm** Classic Coronation Street **12.30** Emmerdale Farm **1.00** Nearest and Dearest **1.30** Agony **2.00** thirtysomething **3.00** The Love Boat **4.00** The Saint **5.00** Hawaii Five-O **6.00** Emmerdale Farm **6.30** Classic Coronation Street **7.00** Mission Impossible **8.00** The Love Boat **9.00** Classic Coronation Street **9.30** The Comedians **10.00** Jokers Wild **10.30** Hogan's Heroes **11.00** Men and Motors



Burt Reynolds stars as a pornographer directing his new star performer (Mark Wahlberg) in *Boogie Nights* (Sky Box Office 3)

DISNEY CHANNEL

6.00am Bear in the Big Blue House **6.25** Classic Toons **6.35** Gummi Bears **7.00** Classic Toons **7.10** Aladdin **7.35** 101 Dalmatians **8.00** Goof Troop **8.25** Classic Toons **8.45** New Adventures of Winnie the Pooh **9.00** The Adventures of Spot **9.05** Animal Shelf **9.15** Pocket Dragons **9.30** Bear in the Big Blue House **9.55** The Toothbrush Family **10.00** Bite Size **10.10** *Tots TV* **10.30** The *Big Garage* **10.45** PB and J Otter **11.00** Sesame Street **12.00pm** The Adventures of Spot **12.05** Animal Shelf **12.15** Pocket Dragons **12.30** Bear in the Big Blue House **12.55** The Toothbrush Family **1.00** Bite Size **1.10** Tots TV **1.30** The Big Garage **1.45** PB and J Otter **2.00** New Adventures of Winnie the Pooh **2.30** Quack Pack **3.00** The Little Mermaid **3.30** Art Attack **4.00** 101 Dalmatians **4.30** Hercules: The TV Show **5.00** Recess **5.15** Pepper Ann **5.30** Smart Guy **6.00** Teen Angel **6.30** Boy Meets World **7.00** Honey I Shrunk the Kids: The TV Show **7.50** Classic Toons **8.00 FILM: Big and Hairy (1998)** **9.35** Home Improvement **10.00** Dinosaurs **10.30** The Wonder Years **11.00** Touched by an Angel **12.00am** Close

FOX KIDS NETWORK

6.00am Power Rangers Turbo **7.00** Mortal Kombat **7.25** Oggy and the Cockroaches **7.30** Donkey Kong Country **8.00** Goosebumps **8.25** Sam and Max **8.35** Spiderman **9.00** X-Men **9.25** Fantastic Four **9.50** The Incredible Hulk **10.05** Casper **10.30** Oggy and the Cockroaches **10.55** The Mouse and the Monster **11.05** Eek!Stravaganza **11.30** Life with Louie **11.55** Home to Rent **12.05pm** Sam and Max **12.30** Donkey Kong Country **1.00** Mowgli: The New Adventures of Jungle Book **1.25** Ace Ventura **1.50** Spiderman **2.15** X-Men **2.40** Fantastic Four **3.05** The Incredible Hulk **3.30** Roy and Lisa's Big Ride **3.35** Mortal Kombat **4.00** Spiderman **4.25** Mowgli: The New Adventures of Jungle Book **4.50** Home to Rent **5.00** Goosebumps **5.25** Eerie Indiana: The Other Dimension **5.50** Oggy and the Cockroaches **5.55** Donkey Kong Country **6.25** Sam and Max **6.50** Eek!Stravaganza **7.00** Close

NICKELODEON

6.00am Muppet Babies **6.30** Rocko's Modern Life **7.00** CatDog **7.30** Rugrats **8.00** The Wild Thornberrys **8.30** Arthur **9.00** Children's BBC **10.00** Wimzie's House **10.30** Babar **11.00** The Magic School Bus **11.30** PB Bear/Budgie the Little Helicopter/Animal Antics/Family Ness **12.00pm** Rugrats **12.30** Blue's Clues **1.00** Bananas in Pyjamas **1.30** Little Bear Stories **2.00** Clangers/King Rollo/Wombles/Bod **2.30** Children's BBC **3.00** Children's BBC **3.30** Pippi Longstocking **4.00** Hey Arnold! **4.30** Rugrats **5.00** Sister Sister **5.30** Kenan and Kel **6.00** Sabrina the Teenage Witch **6.30** Driven Crazy **7.00** Close

BRAVO

8.00pm The A-Team **9.00** LAPD **9.30** Cops **10.00** Extreme Championship Wrestling **10.30** Erotic Confessions **11.00 FILM: Manhunter (1986)** **1.15am** Sex Bytes **1.50** *Erotic Series* **2.20** Extreme Championship Wrestling **2.50** Short **3.05 FILM: Rocky IV (1985)** **5.00** LAPD **5.30** Bushido **6.00** Close

PARAMOUNT COMEDY

7.00pm Jenny **7.30** Grace Under Fire **8.00** Ellen **8.30** NewsRadio **9.00** Drop the Dead Donkey **9.30** Whose Line Is It Anyway? **10.00** Frasier **10.30** Cheers **11.00** Seinfeld **11.30** The Larry Sanders Show **12.00am** Late Night with David Letterman **1.00** Taxi **1.30** The Critic **2.00** Dr Katz **2.30** Tips and Pros **3.00** Nightstand **3.30** Abbott and Costello **4.00** Close

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL

SATELLITE: 8pm-MIDNIGHT ONLY

7.30am Bloomberg Information Television **8.00** Sightings **9.00** Battlestar Galactica **10.00** Quantum Leap **11.00** Dark Shadows **11.30** The Ray Bradbury Theatre **12.00pm** The Twilight Zone **12.30** The Twilight Zone **1.00** Tales of the Unexpected **1.30** Tales of the Unexpected **2.00** Amazing Stories **2.30** Mysteries, Magic and Miracles **3.00** Battlestar Galactica **4.00** The Incredible Hulk **5.00** Sightings **6.00** Time Trax **7.00** Quantum Leap **8.00** The Flash **9.00** PSI Factor: Chronicles of the Paranormal **10.00 FILM: Timecop (1994)** **12.00am** PSI Factor: Chronicles of the Paranormal **1.00 FILM: Tennis Court (1984)** **2.30** The Ray Bradbury Theatre **3.00** The Twilight Zone **3.30** Dark Shadows **4.00** Close

HOME & LEISURE

6.00am Today's Gourmet **6.30** Graham Kerr **7.00** Room Service **7.30** The Painted House **8.00** Wedding Story **8.30** A Baby Story **9.00** Simply Painting **9.25** The Home and Leisure House **9.30** The Great Garden Game **10.00** Real Gardens **10.30** Cookabout with Greg and Max **11.00** Two's Country: Get Stuck In **11.30** Rex Hunt Fishing Adventures **12.00pm** Our House Down Under **12.30** Antiques Trail **1.00** Our House **1.30** Hometime **2.00** New Yankee Workshop **2.30** Home Again with Bob Vila **3.00** This Old House with Steve and Norm **3.30** Go Fishing

DISCOVERY

4.00pm Rex Hunt Specials **4.30** Walker's World **5.00** Wheel Nuts **5.30** Treasure Hunters **6.00** Animal Doctor **6.30** Adventures of the Quest **7.30** The Elegant Solution **8.00** Arthur C Clarke's Mysterious *World **8.30** Creatures Fantastic* **9.00** The Unexplained **10.00** War and Civilisation **11.00** Master Spies **12.00am** Searching for Lost Worlds: Machu Picchu **1.00** Treasure Hunters **1.30** Wheel Nuts **2.00** Close

ANIMAL PLANET

12.00pm Totally Australia **1.00** Nature Watch with Julian Pettifer **1.30** Crocodile Hunter **2.00** All-Bird TV **2.30** Human/Nature **3.30** Harry's Practice **4.00** Jack Hanna's Zoo Life **4.30** Animal Doctor **5.00** Pet Rescue **5.30** Crocodile Hunter **6.00** The New Adventures of Black Beauty **6.30** Lassie **7.00** Rediscovery of the World: New Zealand **8.00** Animal Doctor **8.30** Horse Tales **9.00** Going Wild **9.30** Emergency Vets **10.00** Crocodile Hunter **11.00** Wildlife ER **11.30** Emergency Vets **12.00am** Close

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

7.00pm Between the Desert and the Deep **7.30** Fire Bombers **8.00** Human Nature: Ceremony **9.00** Amazon: The Invisible People **10.00** Wonderful World of Dogs **11.00** On the Edge: Into Darkest Borneo **12.00am** Extreme Earth: Mountains of Fire

HISTORY

4.00pm The Civil War: The Cause **5.00** Classic Cars: Buick **6.00** The Fate of the Neanderthals **7.00** Biography: Mata Hari

CARLTON FOOD

9.00am Food Network Daily **9.30** Chef on a Shoestring **10.00** Feasts of the World **10.30** Alive and Cooking **11.00** What's Cooking? **11.30** Coxon's Kitchen College **12.00pm** Food Network Daily **12.30** Scotland's Larder **1.00** Chef on a Shoestring **1.30** From the Ground Up **2.00** Caribbean Light **2.30** Food Network Daily **3.00** Surprise Chefs **3.30** Coxon's Kitchen College **4.00** Thoroughly Modern British **4.30** Chez Bruno **5.00** Close

LIVING

6.00am Tiny and Crew **6.20** Johnson and Friends **6.30** Philbert the Frog **6.40** Tiny Tales **6.45** Greedysaurus and the Gang **6.50** Polka Dot Shorts **7.00** Practical Parenting **7.05** Professor Bubble **7.30** Caillou **7.35** Bug Alert **7.55** Practical Parenting **8.00** Barney and Friends **8.25** Babaloos **8.30** Caillou **8.35** Tiny and Crew **8.50** Practical Parenting **9.00** Can't Cook, Won't Cook **9.30** The Roseanne Show Highlights **10.00** The Jerry Springer Show **10.50** Maury Povich **11.40** Brookside **12.10pm** *Animal Rescue* **12.40** *Rescue* 911 **1.10** Special Babies **1.40** Beyond Belief: Fact or Fiction **2.10** LA Law **3.10** Living Room **4.00** Michael Cole **4.50** Rolonda **5.40** Ready, Steady, Cook **6.15** The Jerry Springer Show **7.05** Rescue 911 **7.35** Animal Rescue **8.10** Maury Povich **9.00 FILM: The Wrong Woman (1995)** **11.00** The Sex Zone **12.00am** Close

ZEE TV

5.00am Lolly Pop **5.30** Music Time **6.00** Out and About **6.30** Yondle-Ae-Cie **7.00** Faith **7.30** News **8.00** India Business Report **8.30** Salaam **9.00** Rishtey: The Love Stories **10.00** Sola **11.00** Aashrane **11.30** Parampara **12.00pm FILM: Sangam** **3.00** Zee Bangla **3.30** Hum Paanch **4.00** Campus **4.30** Ek Minute **5.00** Jungle Book **5.30** Gumrah **6.00** Top of the Tops **6.30** Banegi Apni Baat **7.00** Bani Ban Jaye **7.30** It's My Choice **8.00** News **8.30** Amanat **9.00** Hawaain **10.00** Ilke Pe Ilka **10.30** Woh **11.00** Purukshetra **12.00am** News **12.30** Tandoori Masala **1.00** Zee Bangla **1.30** Raahat **2.00 FILM: Tami I Movie: Nalm Ungal** **4.30** Val No Vatessar



CRICKET 34
Fairbrother basks in spotlight on world stage

SPORT

RUGBY UNION 37
Hall calls time on his great Newcastle adventure



Wilkinson makes clean break with Hoddle era against the world champions

England return to what they do best

BY OLIVER HOLT, FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

HOWARD WILKINSON had laughed off a lampoon that painted him with a pair of pointy ears and called him Mr Spock. He was in full flow again, enthusing about being the England caretaker manager and beginning a comparison between his own situation and Cinderella's. "Careful," a friendly voice said from the midst of his audience as images of him with the ugly sisters or trying on a slipper embroidered with "FA" flashed across fertile minds.

Wilkinson took the hint, smiled slowly, closed his mouth and covered his eyes with his fingers. So far, nothing has disturbed his equilibrium, nothing has clouded his mood or robbed him of his good humour. He has said all the right things, praised all the right players, made all the right choices and taken full advantage of the goodwill that is being extended towards him precisely because he is not Glenn Hoddle. For someone waltzing his way through a honeymoon period, he has been a skilful romancer.

True to his word, he named his team to take on France, the world champions, at Wembley tonight, yesterday lunchtime. In the manner of Bobby Robson's fondly recalled declaration — "Here's my team and we're coming to get you" — he laid a list of players out on the desk in front of him and read them out at breakneck speed. "You probably know who they are anyway," he said.

It was a good team, too, attractive but solid, full of youth and experience, skilful, yet still uncompromising. Wilkinson tried to play down the fact that he will use a 4-4-2 formation rather than the slightly outmoded 3-5-2 system that Hoddle insisted upon, but his suggestion that his way better suited the talent available to him is hard to dispute.

David Beckham, one of England's greatest talents, is immeasurably more happy playing as an orthodox right midfield player than as a converted wing back. Anyone who saw him destroy Nottingham Forest with his crossing and his prompting last Saturday will relish the prospect of him providing the same kind of service for Alan Shearer and Michael Owen without being compromised by the rigid defensive duties that his previous role demanded.

The same goes for Darren Anderton, who will start the game tonight on the left flank. Tony Adams, one of four Arsenal defenders in the side (the fifth, Nigel Winterburn, was also called into the squad yesterday) is known to be happier playing at the heart of a back four. Hoddle was not flexible enough to change his system to get the best out of the considerable talent available, but that failing seems to have been rectified.



Wilkinson, capturing the lighter mood in the England camp, hides his eyes in response to a newspaper photograph depicting him as Mr Spock. Photograph: Marc Aspland

"The best players England have got this week are better suited to a 4-4-2," Wilkinson said. "I hope they will be happier playing with a flat back four. I don't want anybody ringing me up tonight and telling me they are not because I intend to have a good night's kip."

In many ways, Wilkinson cannot lose tonight. He will be the hero if England beat the team that won the World Cup almost seven months ago to the day. If England are beaten, then they will have been *beaten by a fine side* and, unless the manner of their vanquishing is utterly dispiriting, he will probably be entrusted with the far more important task of preparing the side for the European championship qualifying tie against Poland at Wembley on March 27.

However, Wilkinson has made it plain he is not in this just to improve his curriculum vitae. If that was the case, he would have taken the easy option, bowed to the wishes of the Football Association and consigned Paul Ince, who is suspended for the Poland game, to a place in the stand. Instead, he has picked him at the heart of the team alongside Jamie Redknapp, his Liverpool colleague.

Wilkinson is going all out for a win. His logic is that victory over Zinedine Zidane, Marcel Desailly, Nicolas Anelka *et al* will do much to repair the confidence of an England side that was shattered in the last months of Hoddle's troubled reign. He wants his team to go into the match against the Poles believing that they can beat anybody and if Ince helps to achieve that feeling, it will hardly matter that he will not be on the pitch at the end of March.

That, too, perhaps, is why Wilkinson has plumped for the iron defending of Martin Keown over the finery of Rio Ferdinand. Nor can anyone quibble with his selection of Lee Dixon. He may be 34, but he has been in outstanding form for Arsenal for the past two seasons.

Wilkinson denied that he liked his defenders to be functional and without frills and pointed to his championing of Mel Sterland and Tony Dorigo in his time at Leeds United as evidence of that. Yet he is also aware that Keown, Adams and Dixon know the guiles and pace of Anelka better than most.

Dixon's attitude yesterday *was typical of the new mood of* optimism and levity that seems to have infused the England camp. He admitted that he had given up hope of ever gaining another cap after being discarded by Terry Venables. He joked about asking Adams to save him a seat at the dinner table on Monday night because he was nervous about arriving late after his call-up. "He did it," he said, "but by the time I got there, everybody else had gone."

He said that his daughter had started crying when he told her that he was going to play for England, because she thought that meant he was leaving Arsenal. "I was helping my son with his homework when I got the call from Howard," he said. "It was maths and to be honest I wasn't doing very well. It was a relief to have an excuse to go to the phone."

Wilkinson said that he did not know how he would pitch his first team-talk as England coach before the game, that he would judge it when the moment came. He said also that he would be nervous.

"I don't know what I will be thinking before the game," he said. "I'll probably be telling myself to concentrate. It will be a big occasion for me because making a debut is always one of the biggest games of your life."

Play on Cinderella and may the carriage not turn into a pumpkin when midnight chimes over the Twin Towers.



Confident champions.........36
Proven defence.........36
Keane called up.........37

LINKS

TELEVISION:
Sky Sports 2, 7.00pm (live)
ITV, 10.40pm, highlights
RADIO:
Radio 5 Live, 7.30pm

PROBABLE WEMBLEY TEAMS

ENGLAND (4-4-2)

D Seaman (Arsenal)

L Dixon (Arsenal) · M Keown (Arsenal) · T Adams (Arsenal) · G Le Saux (Chelsea)

D Beckham (Manchester United) · P Ince (Liverpool) · J Redknapp (Liverpool) · D Anderton (Tottenham Hotspur)

M Owen (Liverpool) · A Shearer (Newcastle United)

FRANCE (4-4-1-1)

F Barthez (AS Monaco)

L Thuram (AC Parma) · L Blanc (Marseilles) · M Desailly (Chelsea) · B Lizarazu (Bayern Munich)

R Pires (Marseilles) · Z Zidane (Juventus) · D Deschamps (Juventus) · E Petit (Arsenal)

Y Djorkaeff (Internazionale)

N Anelka (Arsenal)

Referee: H Krug (Germany)

Kick-off 8pm

Shearer stands by departed coach

BY MATT DICKINSON

ALAN SHEARER did not explain whether it was just a natural loyalty or whether he thought Glenn Hoddle truly was the right man for the job, but the England captain was adamant about one thing yesterday. His former coach should not have been sacked.

In a week when his international team-mates have not exactly been shouting "bring back Glenn", it was a jolt to hear Shearer's forthright defence of Hoddle yesterday. It was even more ironic, given that an alleged clash between coach and captain was one of the sticks used to beat Hoddle, but Shearer was a picture of defiance as he swam against the tide of opinion that has washed the former coach out of the England post.

"I didn't think he should go," Shearer said. "I got on very well with him, I thought he was a very good coach and I had a lot of respect for him. The reaction [to the interview in The Times] amazed me. If it is true that he said it along similar lines in May, I am amazed that there was not that reaction then. I'm sure people were offended, but I know he didn't mean to. I feel sorry for anyone hurt by his comments, but I know he didn't mean that."

Shearer's loyalty is to be admired, and it was evident in an exchange of supportive telephone calls with Hoddle last Thursday. One must presume that he also backed his former coach when he, among a few senior players, was sounded out by the Football Association as they contemplated whether to dismiss Hoddle. Shearer would not discuss the contents of that conversation with David Davies, the acting chief executive of the FA, but it seems clear he found it uncomfortable, understandably so, for Shearer does not believe that the England players should be consulted when the FA considers Hoddle's successor — something that Davies has threatened to do.

"The powers that be will have to decide the way forward and whether to bring someone else in other than Howard," he said. "They haven't asked the players who it should be yet, and I wouldn't want them to. That is nothing to do with me. That is their job, my job is to play football.

"I'm not a chief executive, I'm not a politician. I have never been asked who should come in as manager before. We don't get paid to make those decisions. We just go out and do our best. We have to be professional about it."

Just as Shearer, ruthless professional that he is, will be the epitome of conscientiousness when he leads England out tonight for his 47th cap. The first of those came against France in 1992 when he and Gary Lineker were the scorers in a 2-0 victory, and Shearer's tally now stands at an impressive 22.

Shearer takes his role of captaincy seriously — witness Ruud Gullit's declaration yesterday that the striker was his long-term choice as skipper at Newcastle United once Robert Lee leaves — and his standing has been critical this week as Howard Wilkinson has tried to smooth the turbulence left by Hoddle's departure.

"He wants the experienced players to take charge of the situation," Shearer said, "and that is what we have been trying to do. We know there will be great expectations and we need a good performance.

"The mood is fine. The new manager has cracked a few jokes and made everyone feel at ease. We can get great confidence from this game. We don't want to go into the Poland game on the back of a defeat. We want to go in with a nice feeling."

Shearer: consulted

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 1637

ACROSS
1 Of dark complexion (7)
5 Farewell; a glen (4)
8 One soliciting money (6)
9 Seductive appeal (6)
10 Haunt; common (8)
12 Burglar's haul (4)
13 Ballet duet (3,2,4)
17 Catherine —, survived Henry VIII (4)
18 Ammo store (8)
20 Fish; got on by the hasty (6)
21 Bower (6)
23 Group of cooperating countries (4)
24 Pretended (7)

DOWN
2 Barge; passenger rowing boat (6)
3 Scrap; newspaper *(derog.)* (3)
4 Mongols' *Golden* throng (5)
5 *Rokeby Venus* painter (9)
6 Immature insects (6)
7 Winked (eye); faced bowler (6)
11 Equation with second power (9)
14 Patterned silk fabric (6)
15 A scavenger; his *Day*, Forsyth (6)
16 Hurt, wound (6)
19 Be discordant (5)
22 An insect; computer program error (3)

SOLUTION TO NO 1636
ACROSS: 6 Fruit machine 7 Humble 8 Bedsit 9 Peel 10 Do-gooder 12 Dogwatch 16 Dose 18 Camber 20 Callow 21 Supernatural
DOWN: 1 Furbelow 2 Attend 3 Ragbag 4 Chad 5 Entice 6 Flute 11 Old Glory 13 Opaque 14 Throng 15 Hecate 17 Scowl 19 Beef